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THURSDAY, JUNE 5TH, 2014

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Awareness week**
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**WELSH RUGBY'S
'GAME OF THRONES'**
Page 48

Llanblethian history trail launched as part of the Vale Walking Festival



Walkers on the Llanblethian History Trail.

**FOLLOWING
months of
preparation,
involving young and
old, the new
Llanblethian History
Trail was walked by
22 people and two**

**dogs on Friday, May
30.**

The weather was kind to us, as we followed in the footsteps of the 1895 Boyhood Walk described by the late Alderman Robert Thomas. We learned of the wide

range of industries and shops that existed in the village in the past. To finish, the Cross Inn provided sandwiches for the walkers.

The Llanblethian Community Group would like to thank all those who came on the walk, also Cowbridge History Society, Y Bont Faen school and Creative Rural Communities for their help with this project.

Details on the walk will be available at www.llanblethiancommunitygroup.org.uk.

GEM Note: Y Bont Faen Primary report on this walk on page 6.

RE

Ystradowen group to fight latest housing scheme

A NUMBER of Ystradowen residents will be meeting this week to make plans to oppose the latest housing application in the village.

The proposal, for 25 homes, takes the number of houses proposed for the village in various developments to 110.

The 'Fair Deal for Ystradowen' campaign says that it will be meeting this Sunday, (June 8) at 5.30pm in the village hall to consider their response.

A spokesman said that they were concerned that the latest application for 25 homes was in a site not included in the Local Development Plan (LDP).

He added that there were concerns that, if granted permission, it could "open up the likelihood of a new arc of further development in the south-west of Ystradowen".

The 'happy accident' that led Mayor to Cowbridge

by PHILIP
IRWIN

IN general, people who are elected as mayor of a town come into two categories – lifelong residents, or 'outsiders' who have chosen to put down roots there.

The new Mayor of Cowbridge with Llanblethian, Coun Peter Knapp, is definitely in the latter category – although he has been here for 30 years now.

In fact, he told The GEM that his arrival in the town in 1984 – his first home was in Aberthin – was "a happy accident" because his life before that had been spent moving from post to post at the behest of the Midland



The new Mayor and Mayoress.

Bank. Moving every three years or so had been a fact of life, but the time came when his children – two sons and a daughter – were settling in well at school in Cowbridge, and it was time to put down roots.

Before that, life had been almost 20 years of moving to increasingly exciting places although, to be fair, if your early postings are as a trainee manager in

Newcastle, Sheffield and Bradford, things can only get more exotic!

He said: "In 1974, I had a job offer from Olivetti and the Midland found out when Olivetti wrote for a reference!

"The bank must have wanted to keep me, because I was offered the chance to work for the Midland on the Queen Mary and Queen Elizabeth!"

Continued on page 4.



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'Welsh NHS IS working!'

I WONDER how much Mr Andrew RT Davies, the Welsh Conservative leader, really understands the daily life of either hospital currently subject to a disappointing report, at which he directs his withering attack (GEM letters, May 29).

The tone of the letter was very much OTT, and likely to cause great distress to any vulnerable elderly people due to be admitted. Fear can have a huge, negative impact.

I am 85 years old, with diabetes. I was admitted to the Princess of Wales at the end of October, 2013, following a pre-assessment at a month earlier.

I faced cancer surgery with complete confidence in the surgery and aftercare, which turned out to be fully justified.

There were two major operations – the second, on a Sunday, was an emergency. These two, plus the dedication shown in high dependency plus recovery ward, saved my

life. Family support contributed hugely.

It should be noted that not all elderly patients are well behaved. Staff have some abuse to handle. Touching on UKIP and immigration, a large proportion of this hospital care was non-white, non-European, and high quality.

The recent report makes me very sad and does not reflect the reality of Princess of Wales hospital staff's care of the elderly.

Fine tuning the system is the way forward, not costly rambling public inquiries.

Manning levels need examining (are there too many chiefs, not enough Indians?). How much of that constant paperwork is needed? Do we replace the NHS? Not really.

The community care, district nursing, and my GP service, carried on the good work after my discharge.

This letter is not politically motivated. I have never voted Labour, but the Welsh NHS IS working!

Robert Cannon (85), Ognore Vale

Dance teacher to Irving Davies

WITH reference to the recent item on Irving Davies of Barry in The GEM, he was a pupil of Mrs Mae Ross, née Richards, a well-known dancing teacher in Barry.

She lived in

Woodlands Road off The Parade, where he took tap and ballet lessons.

At the age of 21, he was in the show *Annie Get Your Gun* at the London Coliseum, later going into television, in which he was very successful.

Mrs Faith Francis, Llantwit Major.

Monty's interpreter

THE GEM recently reported on the death of Field Marshal Montgomery's interpreter, Mr Derek Knee.

Mr Knee, who helped in the negotiations of the German surrender at Luneburg Heath in May 1945, passed away on March 18.

His nephew Mr Murray Dawson told The GEM: "Although he lived longer in Barry than anywhere else, he was a west countryman, born in Cheltenham."

Before the war, Mr Knee had been a student of French and German at Cambridge University.

Following his war service, Mr Knee studied economics and became an advisor to department stores in Europe.

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Readers' Letters

Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, Don John, at Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL or email gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk

IMPORTANT: We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. Letters and e-mails MUST include full address and a contact telephone number. An email address alone is not sufficient! We will (in certain circumstances) protect a writer's identity, if requested.

Arguments over new housing are nothing new in Cowbridge...

HAVING lived in Cowbridge for 35 years and worked there for 41 years, I have read with interest the arguments for and against the plans for additional housing in the area.

I was particularly interested in the thoughts of Cynthia Willems (The GEM, May 8) and her use of the comment "Not In My Back Yard".

This resonated with me as it is not just a recent issue, but a historical one. I recall similar concerns being raised over 40 years ago when housing was

built on what became known as Brookfield Park, The Verlands and St Athan Road.

At that time, there was also a great deal of 'NIMBYism', with existing residents of Cowbridge concerned that this additional housing would adversely affect property values and detract from what made Cowbridge special.

Time has shown that this was simply not the case and those areas became extremely popular places in which to live.

I no longer live in Cowbridge and fully appreciate that every area will reach saturation point in terms of additional housing stock and the pressure this puts on existing public services.

However, I can't help but be reminded of a talk that I attended at the time, on this very issue, when the speaker was a prominent, well-respected Cowbridge resident. The speaker asked everyone present to raise their hand if they liked living in Cowbridge.

Without exception, everyone immediately raised their hand. The speaker's response? "Ah, so you love living here, but you don't want anyone else to live here, do you?"
S Dickens, Pontyclun.

CHIVALRY IS NOT DEAD!

ON Friday, May 30, at 11pm, two friends and I left The Duke of Wellington after an amazing evening to find one of my friend's cars had a flat battery, as she'd left her lights on!

Neither friend had jump-leads or torches in their cars. Tut tut! My car does, but was at home!

A man in a black suit asked if we were alright and went off to get his jump-leads, then a young mechanic wearing an Audi t-shirt offered to help. They both got us going again with their jump-leads and torches.

Thank you. Chivalry is not dead! Two knights in shining armour came along and hopefully the damsels in distress will have learnt a lesson.
Cheryl, Sheala and Mary, Cowbridge.

'Cabinet should take a pay cut'

I WRITE to say well done to Dave Radford for his latest letter about cuts and increasing charges from the Vale of Glamorgan Council.

I would first like to point out that I give a proportion of my allowance to charity and have never claimed additional expenses. My allowance is around £13k per year and I currently put in around 30 hours a week. However, perhaps one way forward would be to make the role full time and reduce the number of councillors.

We have seen a reduction in the number

of cabinet members from 10 to seven and this came about by a campaign from local Independents, but perhaps it is also time for the cabinet to now follow their colleagues in RCT and take a pay cut?

It is not right that these cuts are being imposed by the Labour cabinet without taking a cut themselves. In fact I would go along with Mr Radford in saying it would be immoral if they did not follow suit.

As for the office of Mayor, this is a luxury that we cannot afford and we Independents will continue in our fight to see this cut.

Coun Richard Bertin, Independent, Vale Council.

'FACTS ABOUT COUNCILLORS' EXPENSES'

WE were pleased to see recent interest in the allowances and expenses paid to local councillors. We feel it essential that elected representatives are fully accountable and would like to draw attention to some additional information that might help complete the full picture.

The total allowances paid to councillors in the Vale of Glamorgan for the last financial year were £108,773, or 11 per cent, less than those of the final year of the previous Conservative administration in 2011/12.

Expenses claimed have also dropped, from £7.7k per year to £3.7k, and none of the current cabinet claims expenses, even though fully entitled to do so.

An individual councillor's basic allowance has dropped from £13,868 to £13,175 and a cabinet member's allowance is down from £31,204 in 2011/12 to £28,779 in 2013/14.

Up to now, only 16 of the 18 special responsibility allowances have been allocated, although that has recently increased to 17, due to the Leader of the

Independent group now receiving an additional allowance.

The major savings, however, have come through the increased workload of cabinet members when the number of cabinet positions was reduced from 10 to 7 by the current Labour/Llantwit First administration.

So to clarify, councillors' allowances are set by an independent remuneration panel, and not by the local authority itself.

They are divided into three bands, Cardiff is in the highest band and the Vale in the second.

Full details of the panel's deliberations and how they came to their recommendations are available online. If readers would like further details of all councillors' allowances and expenses over the past four years they are available at:

www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/en/our_council/council/councillors/Allowances%20for%20Members.aspx.

Coun Neil Moore, Coun Stuart Egan, Coun Bronwen Brooks, Coun Lis Burnett, Coun Rob Curtis, Coun Chris Elmore, Coun Gwyn John (Leader and cabinet members of the Vale of Glamorgan Council).

Flowers better than skulls!

IS it just me? I hate tattoos and find it hard to accept how vast this craze has become.

On TV, we were shown a man who had his face done as a skull. Who could live with that, or employ him? What would lead him to do such a thing? Let us return to the 'flowers in your hair' period – they were happy times!
Mrs Heveron, Rhooose.

Rhubarb surprise!

I WOULD like to express my thanks to the very kind gentleman who left many sticks of beautiful rhubarb on my doorstep when delicious! Thank you.
Marian, Llantwit Major.

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL JUNE 12)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary.

For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time	Ht	Time	Ht
	AM	M	PM	M
05 Thur	11.57	7.8		
06 Fri	00.24	7.8	12.55	7.6
07 Sat	01.18	7.7	13.59	7.6
08 Sun	02.32	7.8	15.16	7.8
09 Mon	03.33	7.9	16.16	8.1
10 Tues	04.39	8.4	17.11	8.6
11 Wed	05.31	8.8	17.54	9.2
12 Thur	06.20	9.3	18.48	9.6

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specific to their location.



Wally and Peter Lever seated on the bench, with Rose Ives, Mavis Burnham and members of the village gardening club.

Ystradowen villagers pay tribute to Betty

A WI team has transformed a disused layby in Ystradowen, led by Rose Ives, Mavis Burnham and Betty Lever.

The area has been planted, walled and peagravelled and what was once an eyesore is now an area of beauty for all to enjoy.

When the Millennium project was completed, a metal bench was sited there but unfortunately, sometime ago this was stolen. When it was being replaced this year, it was decided the oak bench be dedicated to Betty Lever who had worked tirelessly for the village until her death last year.

She was very involved with the upkeep for the layby project and gardening in the village over the years. She, her son Peter and Rose and Mavis, could regularly be seen

tending the plants and keeping the village to the excellent standard it is today. This is evident by the various successes in the Best Kept Village competition over the years.

At a small celebration held recently to dedicate the bench, attended by family and several friends, Rose spoke movingly of Betty's contribution to village life, her Christmas senior citizens' dinners, children's Christmas parties, fetes, shows and the many fundraising event she undertook to organise.

Rose concluded by saying she doubted there were many families in Ystradowen who had not sampled Betty's excellent cakes, jams and pickles.

The inscription on the bench says it all – Betty Lever, loved by us all.

SS

Summer Fayre wants former carnival queens as part of the big day

LLANTWIT MAJOR Summer Fayre organisers are 'calling all the town's former carnival queens'!

The fayre is just a couple of weeks away on June 21 and numerous events and activities are planned.

One event is a carnival procession through the town prior to all the fun at the rugby club.

One of the organisers, Bryon Evans, said: "We would like any of the former carnival queens of the town to get in touch so they can be part of the parade."

Vale of Glamorgan bridge club results

RECENT results:

1st Mike Best & David Birt 67.56%, 2nd John Beard & Liam Sheridan 66.67%, 3rd Debbie & Simon Richards 66.01%.

LE

www.llantwitmajorandcobridgelions.org.uk.

Paula's locks, nine years in the growing, snipped off for charity!

'I FEEL A LOT LIGHTER NOW!'

IT was a case of 'hair today, gone tomorrow' for Vale District Nurse Paula Curtis of Llantwit Major, who has been growing her hair patiently for the past nine years – with the sole aim of having it all chopped off in aid of The Little Princess Trust charity.

The Big Snip took place at Llantwit's Mirror Image salon, where owner Julie served Buck's Fizz and a party atmosphere, and stylist Cath carefully cut 12 inches off Paula's luxuriant blonde locks.

The lovingly grown hair will go towards making a wig for a child who has lost hair during cancer treatment.

The charity was set up in 2006 by the parents of five-year-old Hannah Tarplee, who lost her battle against cancer in 2005. Hannah found it very traumatic to lose her hair during chemotherapy, so her mum and dad set up the charity, which provides real hair

wigs for boys and girls like her, in Hannah's memory.

Paula joins celebrities like Jessie J and, most recently, ITV's Mr Selfridge actress Sai Bennett, in facing the chop for The Little Princess Trust. Her 12 inches of freshly washed and conditioned hair was sent off to the charity by special delivery to be made into a wig. What's more, Paula has raised nearly £500 from family, friends and her patients in Cowbridge, Llantwit and the Western Vale, who sponsored her to face the snip.

Paula, who is a member of Lions International and the St Donats' Atlantic Choral, is still getting used to the chilly draught around her neck, but commented: "I feel a lot lighter now!" "Thank you so much to everyone who has supported me, but especially Mirror Image, for giving me such a fab haircut. Lots of people have said it's taken years off me!"

For further information about The Little Princess Trust, visit www.littleprincesses.org.uk.



LEFT: The generous gift of Paula's locks will help children to have a 'real hair' wig.

French guests' war singalong

COWBRIDGE Town Hall played host to a World War One music event on Saturday, June 1.

It was the idea of the Cowbridge Town Twinning Association in this the 100th anniversary of World War One.

Bunting and the Welsh and French flags adorned the hall to welcome the esteemed French guests from the town of Clisson.

Vocalist Nick Russell and pianist Sue Harwood, dressed in authentic military and nursing costume of the day, performed a selection of classic World War One songs, including 'Roses of Picardy', 'Goodbye Dolly Gray' and 'Keep the Home Fires Burning.' They were received with great enthusiasm.

Everyone sang their hearts out and had a jolly good time. Vivien Evans from the Cowbridge Town Twinning Association said: "It was indeed a memorable evening and so many people have come up to me to say how much they enjoyed it."

In addition, there was a sum raised from the evening's events that will be donated to the charity 'Help the Heroes'. NR

LOCAL RESTAURANT UP FOR THE CUP?



THE Vale MP Alun Cairns has nominated The Shampan, Cowbridge, for the Tiffin Cup!

This is awarded every year by an all party group of MPs, who are asked to nominate a restaurant in their constituency to be named the Best South Asian restaurant in Britain.

Mr Cairns visited the restaurant and told them that the next step would be for a 'mystery customer' from the judging panel to visit the restaurant.

Waves and waterlilies at Friendship Club!

THERE seems to be no end to the talent of members of the Cowbridge Friendship Club.

Last month saw a display in Cowbridge Library of their decorated eggs, previously they have created Easter bunnies, snowmen, penguins, also the decorations on the Christmas tree which could be seen at the Christmas Tree Festival in Holy Cross Church.

At the May meeting, after a demonstration by Ann Mahoney, they created waves, water lilies, birds of paradise and many other images all out of paper napkins. We wouldn't be surprised if party planners could well be engaging the services of the members to fold the napkins at their functions!

Members enjoyed the afternoon so much that we are hoping that Ann can come along to another of our meetings to carry on with the napkin folding which we were unable to complete.

Everyone was so engrossed in creating the various perfect napkins that afternoon tea was nearly forgotten, well not quite! We still had time for a quick cup

of tea, sandwich and cake before members left for the afternoon.

At the next meeting on June 26 members will be transported to Hawaii with the help of Monica Jones – so if you or someone you know would like to join, with transport provided, ring 01656-668446 to find out more.

Pat Smith, (Leader).

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New Mayor talks to The GEM

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

It was a time when many businessmen still crossed the Atlantic by boat on their way to do business, and Peter's onerous task was to travel back and forth – in first class of course – keeping the bank well connected. Networking would be the modern phrase.

It wasn't a posting for a single man, and soon after his two-year stint, he married Gillian. Liverpool was the next posting but in 1977, the bank asked him to be their representative in Egypt!

He said: "It was at the time when the president, Anwar Sadat, was making peace with Israel, so important things were happening. We had a place close to the River Nile."

"Gillian had reservations about Egypt, but once she gained the confidence to drive in Egyptian traffic, she would leave me in Cairo and head out to see the famous places in the desert."

"As a result, it was a three-year posting that we both loved."

When they returned to the UK it was to East Anglia, and then to Cardiff in 1984, when they settled in Cowbridge.

The three-year cycle kicked in again and London was the next post offered, but by then the family was feeling settled, and the reputation of Cowbridge Comprehensive was a big factor in Peter taking a voluntary retirement package and then joining the Welsh Development Agency (WDA).

It was the time when Far East companies were being attracted

to Wales – in particular Japanese ones – and Peter was part of the team that was tasked with selling the benefits of choosing the Principality as a European base.

He was on the WDA team for three years, and was also asked to do some financial training, initially for exporters.

However, his presentation skills – probably helped by his involvement in amateur dramatics – meant that he would carry on keeping busy as a trainer for another 17 years.

Gillian kept busy in Cowbridge as well, becoming the restaurant manager at 'Off the Beeton Track'.

The dark side of life suddenly appeared, however, in 1991, when Gillian died, aged just 45, after losing her fight against cancer.

Family and friends were a great support during these times and among these was Jo, the owner of 'Off the Beeton Track' who was a good friend to Peter and Gillian.

They had been friends for some time and Gillian had gone to work for Jo at the restaurant at a time when she was particularly busy.

Some years later, Peter and Jo were married, and between them Peter and Jo now have a total of 11 grandchildren.

Mayors spend most of their year in office representing the town at public events, concerts, and supporting voluntary groups, and this is something that Peter is definitely looking forward to.

It helps that he is a passionate classical music fan, and he is full

of praise for Mary Elliott, the driving force behind the Cowbridge Music Festival.

He said: "I think it is amazing that Mary has done so much, even though she now lives in Europe."

"Nevertheless, she has managed to get really high quality performers to come and play in Cowbridge."

Events that highlight the community spirit around the Vale will be a welcome duty as well. Duties last year as deputy mayor brought home to Peter just how much is done by people on a voluntary basis, and he feels Cowbridge is special in this regard.

He said: "So much goes on in Cowbridge and it does help to make the town special. One of our first duties was a function at the Physic Garden, and the fact that it was created and is now maintained by volunteers is amazing."

"Other towns have higher populations, but I do see Cowbridge as the heart of the Vale!"

A busy year beckons for Coun Knapp and Jo, the Mayoress, but it will be especially busy until July, as he is committed to fitting in rehearsals for the Cowbridge Amateur Dramatic Society's next production *The 39 Steps*.

This will culminate in his Civic Service, on Sunday, July 13, with the play opening just two days later, on July 15.

Clearly, those vital last-minute rehearsals on the Sunday will be one short!

LADIES REFLECT ON A BUSY YEAR

THIS month's meeting was the AGM in the village hall on Wednesday, May 7.

President Jan Foyle opened the meeting and welcomed the guest, WI advisor Kath Mephram.

Minutes secretary Barbara Richards read the minutes of the April meeting, which were approved.

Chris Kelly reported that we have only 17 members booked for the visit to Cheltenham in August. It was agreed to invite members from Llanharry to join us.

Three Ystradowen members are entering classes in the Margam Show. Next year's programme will be available in June.

Averil Mayer, who has been unwell, sent a card thanking us for our good wishes to her for a speedy recovery.

Val Staddon gave a financial report which Pam Robbins had prepared. Sheena Sargeant had represented the branch at the council meeting of the federation. She reported that attendance had been good and the speakers very entertaining.

Next year being the centenary of the WI the meeting will be held at St David's Hall in

YSTRADOWEN AND DISTRICT WI NEWS

Cardiff. A baton will travel throughout the area and will be in the Vale during August 2015.

A mural is to be produced and the Ystradowen Pathway project has been chosen as the subject. We are proud of our lay by and the devoted group who work very hard to keep it looking so good.

Mavis Burnham thanked everybody for supporting the soup morning which raised £513. Some of this money will be used to buy new plants for the lay by. This concluded the AGM and we moved onto the WI Resolution for 2014.

Moiria May gave an excellent and comprehensive presentation of the 2014 resolution that the WI will be putting forward to the Government: "The NFWI calls on every member of the WI to make their wishes known regarding organ donation and to encourage their families and friends to do likewise."

The Welsh Government have decided to implement a 'soft' opt out system for

organ donation. This means that every Welsh resident is deemed to have given their consent to donate their organs unless they opt out. At any one time there are 200 people on the waiting list for organ replacement in Wales.

The NFWI stresses that members should make their wishes regarding organ donation known to family members. The consent of family members is vital.

Members were invited to discuss the issue before a vote was taken. 23 members voted for the resolution with one abstention. Sheena agreed to vote on our behalf and to consider any other points of view which arise.

The final part of the evening was the annual meeting which our WI advisor Kath Mephram

presided over. Val Staddon presented the financial statement for the year. Sheena complimented Pam Robbins for a very efficient and detailed balance sheet.

Barbara Richards presented a report of the many and varied activities which members have enjoyed during the year. No wonder we are such a happy WI branch!

The final report was from our president. This was presented in verse. Committee and members were warmly thanked for their support to her during the year. All committee members agreed to stand for a further year.

A vote was taken for the position of president. Jan Foyle agreed to stand again. This concluded the business for the evening and we were able to enjoy a cheese buffet washed down with either a glass of wine or a cup of tea.

EL

Rock night for KPC

THE Smythreens are playing a charity gig for KPC Youth at the Grove Golf Club, near Porthcawl from 8pm on Friday, June 20.

Tickets (£5) are on sale now from KPC Youth, off Pyle Inn Way, Pyle, or telephone 01656 745399; or 01656 749219, email: kpcyouth@hotmail.com. Hope you can support us!



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SID AND JEAN TO BE HONoured FOR CAMPAIGN AT 10 DOWNING STREET

How a local couple turned their sad loss into helping others

REPORT by TIM CHAPMAN

A BARRY couple, who have campaigned to raise awareness of 'sudden unexpected death epilepsy' after they found their son dead in bed one morning, are to be recognised at a 10 Downing Street reception.

Jason Pycroft was a brilliant young research doctor, but his life was cut short by epilepsy one night five years ago at the age of just 37.

His father, Sid, told The GEM: "One morning, I went up and found him in bed. He'd died in the night."

For Sid, aged 82, and his wife Jean, aged 78, it was a hugely traumatic event.

Jason had had a distinguished career in medical research.

Sid said: "He'd got his PhD at Cardiff University and worked at Washington University School of Medicine in St Louis as a research scientist."

"He specialised in spinal analysis and injecting spinal fluid – he worked on the Superman actor Christopher Reeve who'd had a serious accident falling from his horse."

When the American Government pulled research funds, Jason worked at Magdeburg University in Germany before returning home to Wales.

Following his death, Sid and Jean campaigned and fund-raised for

SUDEP (epilepsy bereaved). SUDEP stands for 'sudden unexpected death epilepsy'. The charity changed its name to SUDEP Action last year.

Sid said: "We will never get over what happened to Jason. Nobody knows what causes this and we hope that research will be able to find out the answer."

Epilepsy affects the brain, and as Sid pointed out "the brain is the engine of the body" – which in Jason's case mysteriously switched off.

Sid and Jean have organised a number of charity events through the local Freemasons' groups – often auctioning sports memorabilia from top clubs like Liverpool, Manchester United and Arsenal, and from the Welsh Rugby Team.

"At one event we raised £5,000. The charity is now recognised worldwide and is a charitable organisation that doesn't get grants and is funded by people's generosity."

On Tuesday, June 10, Sid and Jean, and other members of the charity will have their efforts recognised when they meet the Prime Minister's wife Samantha at a special reception to be held at 10 Downing Street.

For more on the cause so close to Sid and Jean's hearts, please go to www.sudep.org. They are happy to speak to people about the charity's work. Their telephone number is 01446 735865.



Jason Pycroft.



Sid and Jean Pycroft.

Ram-raiders are jailed for ten years

TWO men who were involved in a ram-raid on a pharmacy in the centre of Barry have been jailed for a total of 10 years at Cardiff Crown Court, writes AJ SICLUNA.

Gareth Romans (37) of Holton Road, Barry, and Daniel Murphy (45) of no fixed address, made off with aftershaves and perfumes worth £850, but caused damage of £13,500.

The classic Land Rover they had taken to carry out the raid was later set on fire.

Romans admitted

aggravated vehicle taking, burglary, arson and possessing heroin.

Murphy pleaded guilty to aggravated vehicle taking, burglary, arson, and driving while disqualified.

Murphy was jailed for six years and Romans for four years.

Judge David Wynn Morgan said the raid was carried out in deliberation, and added: "It was a kind of military operation and involved a breach of the peace, an affront to civilised society, an outrageous offence."

He said they had stolen someone's precious vehicle before destroying it.

Prosecutor John Warren said that the Land Rover was taken on November 27 from Dyfrig Street, Barry, and taken to Holton Road, where it was used in the ram-raid of Lloyds Pharmacy.

Murphy was the driver and he reversed it into the doors of the premises. Romans went in and took property.

The pair left the scene and in Marlborough Close, Barry, the vehicle was set alight and totally destroyed.

A print of Romans' trainers was found on the premises.

He was arrested and denied the offence. In custody, he was searched and found to have a quantity of heroin in his private parts.

Romans was said to have convictions for 114 offences, including robbery, burglary, supplying drugs, dangerous driving and causing suffering to an

animal. The owner of the vehicle, Mr Alan Jeffries, said he had been restoring it for several years. It was in pristine condition and had become a classic. He said he was angry and upset because he had invested so much time and trouble in the vehicle.

Mr Jeffries added: "They are scum."

Said the judge: "That is not a phrase that can be used in the courts, but no-one disputes the accuracy of it."

Adam Sharp for Romans said: "The offences speak for themselves. The motivation was financial to fund drugs."

"He had no money, and had separated from his partner. He comes from a stable family and in his youth, had been an excellent rugby player. He was once stabbed in the chest and carries the scars."

Last year, he added, he had helped a pregnant woman who was about to give birth in the centre of Barry.



Squeals... as the Brownies take on bush tucker trial!

THE 1st Colwinston Brownies enjoyed an amazing day last Saturday, courtesy of bushcraft parties in Tythegeston.

The day was sponsored by Western Power Distribution, who provided the prize in a competition that the Brownie pack entered.

Luckily the day was dry and sunny, and the Brownies said goodbye to their families then followed the instructor, Steph, through the woods to a cosy willow hut where, after a safety talk, the girls (and some of the leaders) learnt how to light a fire with flint.

It took a lot of practice, but by the end of the session, everyone had managed to light (and extinguish) a small fire – a great sense of achievement.

An early lunch around the campfire was followed by a short walk deeper into the forest to build dens – much

collecting of wood, sticks, branches – and bluebells – ended up with four fabulous dens.

All that hard work had built up an appetite, so the Brownies returned to the hut for the bush tucker trial.

Some of the girls tried pine needle cordial, stinging nettles, fennel, mealworms and crickets and two brave Brownies had to close their eyes while Steph gave them the final, extreme edible challenge!

After screams, squeals and anticipation, the final challenge turned out to be nothing more than a big, fat, juicy – prune!

But well done to all who braved the trial! All the excitement died down, and it was time to toast marshmallows and teacakes on the open fire.

A final song and it was time to say goodbye and thanks to Steph from bushcraft birthdays for an exciting day of bushcraft fun.

DEBORAH KWAN

LLANTWIT SURGERY

THE Llantwit First Independent councillors will be holding a surgery at the Old School, Wine Street, Llantwit Major this Saturday, June 7, from 9.30am until 11.30am. Residents who have any issues to raise are welcome to attend.

Clean fun!

THIS Saturday, Cowbridge Scout Group is fundraising in the town for Community Action Week.

Bring your dirty shoes to Costa Coffee between 11am and 2pm for a good clean, then drive to the Fire Station between 10.30am and 2pm and let the Scouts clean your car; donations welcome.

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Pendoylan pupils (and parents) take to the catwalk!

PUPILS at Pendoylan CIW Primary School took to the catwalk when the Copthorne Hotel's Simon Read generously hosted a glamorous fund-raising evening of fashion and fun, organised with John Lewis.

Thanks to the wonderful make-up artists and hair stylists, plus the fabulous clothes, the models were made to feel and look like movie stars.

Amanda Baker, a representative of the school's Friends committee and chief organiser of the event, said: "Sara-Jane Evans from John Lewis was amazing."

"She compered the evening and worked so hard with her colleague Julian Baker to arrange the event."

"They provided gorgeous outfits and Japonesque make-up for our pupil, parent and teacher models, while Scarlet Knight very kindly donated their hair services. It was such a fun night and we managed to raise lots of money for the school. We can't wait to do it again."



ABOVE:
Our brave teacher Tom.



ABOVE: The hairdressers from Scarlett Knight.



Year-4 pupil
Charlie.



LEFT:
Reception pupil Martha.



BELOW:
Year-2 pupil Archie.



Year-3 pupil Mercedes.



BELOW:
Left to right: the organisers, Amanda Baker (Friends Association), Julian Baker and Sara-Jane Evans (both John Lewis).



Year-4 pupil
Conner.



Year-2 pupil Sofia.

Y BONT FAEN REPORTS ON THEIR HISTORICAL WALK



CHILDREN from Y Bont Faen Primary School recently set out on their first walk around the village of Llanblethian.

This represents the beginning of an exciting project being undertaken with the support of Llanblethian Community Group and the Cowbridge History Society.

Children from years 3, 4 and 5 began their walk at St Quentin's Castle, a fortification that is thought to have been originally built by Herbert de St Quentin in the 12th Century.

There is an abundance of information about the castle scattered around the historical site. Although you will need plenty of energy to wind up the clockwork information centre.

As you can see the weather was certainly kind to the children (unfortunately, we can't guarantee weather like this for future walks!).

The children then split into three smaller groups and descended into the picturesque and ancient village of Llanblethian.

They had to use their map reading skills to guide them to three historical buildings – namely the Wool Factory, the Mill and the Great House. Although there was some debate about which house was actually the original Mill, as there were two buildings with the same name!

Over the rest of the summer term, the children will research and produce a fact file on these three buildings.

It is intended to be a long term project and that as the years elapse QR codes will pop up throughout the village celebrating the work of the children and the history of Llanblethian.

If you require any further information about this exciting project, please contact Y Bont Faen Primary School at ybontfaen@me.com or Rebecca Exley from the Llanblethian Community Group.

Harvest Cowbridge Orchard Walk

A TOTAL of 38 people attended the Harvest Cowbridge Orchard Walk for the Vale Walking Festival on Sunday, June 1.

They were treated to a talk about the apple trees in the Physic Garden, a visit to Llanblethian Orchards with award-winning local artisan cider maker Alex Simmens, where he talked about the trees in his orchard and passed on some cider-making tips, a tour of the apple orchard, and a tasting of Llazzy Llama cider from Glyndwr Vineyard.

Harvest Cowbridge has recently had funding from Creative Rural Communities to put on a series of community apple and orchard related events during 2014, including mapping and volunteer harvesting of local trees to reduce food waste, an Apple Day Festival, October 18, and a Cowbridge Wassail at Christmas time.

Harvest Cowbridge is a community group and

next meets on Wednesday, June 11 at 5.30pm in the Duke of Wellington. All welcome. For more information email info@hucowbridge.co.uk. Find Harvest Cowbridge on Facebook and Twitter.

Cob Oven Demo Day

LOCATED in the Old Hall Gardens, funded by Creative Rural Communities, and built for the Cowbridge Food Festival Fringe in October 2013, the cob oven is now a permanent resource for use by the local community.

It is an example of traditional and sustainable cooking, fuelled by wood and made entirely from natural materials sourced locally.

Residents can see it fired up and baking, find out how it was made, feast on wood fired bread and make their own pizza on June 14 from 10am – 4pm.

Contact Nancy Evans for full information 07729 758510.

Exhibition at Art Central

AS part of Barry's official war commemorations, the Art Central Gallery on King's Square will be showing an exhibition of the artist Ray Howard-Jones, one of the few women war artists of the Second World War.

She was born in 1903 and grew up in Penarth. She painted the preparations for the D-Day landings in the docks and on the islands of the Bristol Channel.

The Art Central exhibition features work from the war years as well as many paintings of her time on Skomer Island in Pembrokeshire.

She also produced the largest art work ever seen in Wales when she won the commission to create the mural on the side of the Thomson House publishing building in Cardiff near the Millennium Stadium. This was, sadly, destroyed when the building was re-developed.

Ray Howard-Jones (1903-96), *The Retrospective* has its official opening on June 6 and runs until July 5. Professor Tony Curtis will give an illustrated talk on the artist at Art Central on Saturday, June 14, at 2pm.

www.tonycurtispoet.com.

CLISSON AND COWBRIDGE: CENTENARY EXCHANGE



Chairman Annie Ansari and friends at the Thursday reception.

LAST week, Cowbridge residents welcomed 35 French visitors from Clisson, in the Loire region of western France. Too often, the idea of foreign exchanges recall dismal scenes of school-enforced programmes — but the atmosphere at this event was one of palpable affection between individuals and families.

This year, the visit celebrated not only 23 years of partnership between the towns, but included a small commemoration of the Great War that began

100 years ago. International friendship, and shared history took on a duly particular and touching significance.

Clisson and Cowbridge visit each other in alternate years, so the last time the Clissonais came to Cowbridge was in 2012. Their visit then had a strong rugby theme, as Wales had just won a 16-9 victory over France in the championship final. With great grace, the Clissonais handed over 'Le Grand Chelem' ('Super Grand Slam') trophy to the Cowbridge Town Twinning Association (CTTA).

This year's theme had the potential for a more sombre mood, but the very obvious happiness of multiple acquaintances put paid to any gloom. On

Thursday, the French were welcomed at Cowbridge Town Hall with a plentiful free bar and finger foods. The Clissonais were officially welcomed in a short speech by the Mayor of Cowbridge, Coun Peter Knapp, and his consort Mrs Jo Knapp, wearing their chains of office.

Friday saw the French and British members alike whisked off for a tasting at the Penderyn Whisky Distillery, lunch at Ty Newydd Country Hotel, and a trip on the Brecon Mountain Railway.

On Saturday — after a brief respite for recovery — everyone enjoyed a rather good dinner at Cowbridge Town Hall. Cardiff's 'Gentleman Musician,' Nick Russell, and pianist



Annie Ansari, CTTA chairman; Gilles Renoul, chairman of the Clisson twinning association; and Margaret Vernon, long-term supporter of the CTTA since its inception.

Sue Harwood, performed popular songs from the First World War era in both English and French, including Pack Up Your Troubles, It's A Long Way To Tipperary and Roses Of Picardy, which quickly developed into a singalong. A collection was raised afterwards for the Help For Heroes charity (www.helpforheroes.org.uk).

The final emotional parting, and departure of the coach back to France, took place terribly early on Sunday morning. Some lucky Cowbridgers will visit their French hosts next summer; for the rest of us, it'll be Bonjour encore! in 2016.

The CTTA was

originally the brainchild of French-born Annie Ansari, the current chairman and long-time resident of Cowbridge. Anyone wishing to join the Association should visit website www.cowbridge-twinning.co.uk or email ansari@celtic.co.uk for further details.

Membership costs just £5 per year; if you'd like to host a French family the Association will do its best to pair you up, but even if it can't do that immediately, the social events in Cowbridge are open to all. You don't even have to speak French (sign language and basic good-heartedness is usually sufficient!) Catrin Thomas-Price

Bowling Club's heartfelt tribute OBITUARY - DAVID JONES Founder member and former chairman

MEMBERS of Cowbridge Bowling Club were deeply saddened to hear this week of the death of a valued and long standing club member.

Residing in Ystradowen (and formerly in Bonvilston), Mr Jones had been a member of the club since its inception in 1995.

Indeed, in that foundation year, he was appointed vice-chairman and the following year he became the club's chairman. He was appointed president in 2005 and served in that capacity for two years.

However, it is for his prowess on the bowling green that David will best be remembered. He played consistently over the years as a skip for the Cowbridge team.

When David was at the top of his form, there was no one in the club who was more skilfully accomplished. This is evidenced by the fact that he was the club's singles champion

in 2000 and again in 2004.

He won the club's triples competition no fewer than four times — in 1998, 2004, 2008 and 2009. He also had success in the mixed pairs competition in 2001.

David was a quiet man who played his games in a non-demonstrative manner, but he was a committed competitor with a quiet determination that his opponents found difficult to overcome.

David was never known to have raised his voice to a member of his rink who was not having the best of games.

He was much

respected by both team-mates and opposition alike.

All club members expressed their deepest sympathy to his wife, Thelma, who herself has been a long standing lady bowler with the club over the same period of time.

David, for his prowess on the green and for his demeanour which epitomised the gentle nature of the game of bowls and the respect shown to others on the rink, will be long remembered and sadly missed by everyone associated with Cowbridge Bowling Club.

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'VICIOUS AND UNPROVOKED ATTACK'... Man escapes jail after beating up pensioner (65)

A VULNERABLE pensioner was the victim of a ferocious, unprovoked attack by the area manager of a cleaning company in Bridgend.

Richard Steadman (33) of Villiers Road, Port Talbot, admitted causing 65-year-old Vivian Williams actual bodily harm.

He was jailed for 14 months, suspended for two years, banned from going into licensed premises for a year, and made subject to a six-month electronically-tagged curfew from 8pm-

CARDIFF CROWN COURT REPORT by AJ SICLUNA

7am.

In addition, he was ordered to pay his victim £1,000 compensation, costs of £600, a victim surcharge of £100 and to carry out 200 hours unpaid work. He was also made subject to a supervision order for two years.

Said Judge Philip Richards: "This was a

vicious, ferocious attack which was sustained on a man much older than you, a person who was unable to defend himself."

The incident, he said, had had continuing consequences for Mr Williams.

The court heard that Steadman had a conviction for causing actual bodily harm on two

people and had been cautioned for assaulting his father.

Prosecutor Julian Greenwood said that during the attack, Mr Williams was knocked out.

He was walking in the centre of Bridgend on February 23 with his partner, having been to a 21st birthday party.

Near the Wyndham Hotel, a couple were engaged in an argument and Mr Williams said: "Why don't you leave her alone, mate?"

Steadman, who was nearby, suddenly attacked Mr Williams, who remembered nothing except being on his hands and knees. His partner was screaming for help.

Mr Williams suffered a cut nose, bruises and cuts to the head, an injury below an eye and in hospital, doctors discovered blood in his urine.

His partner later said: "His attacker threw well-aimed punches with a great deal of force." She said she tried to intervene but became hysterical.

Mr Greenwood said a taxi driver had an unobstructed view of the attack and saw Steadman punch Mr Williams two or three times to either side of the head and face. Following that, he threw another three or four punches.

The assault, said the witness, was totally unprovoked and it was clear Steadman had been looking for a fight.

Mr Williams later said his partner had been physically sick, and because they were pensioners, they felt vulnerable. His nose was now disfigured.

Steadman's counsel, Andrew Taylor, said: "He is not habitually in trouble with the police. At no time did he target the victim. He is enormously contrite. His father is in poor health and he cares for him.

"He knows he is in a perilous situation, but custody would be a catastrophe."

Independents' opposition to the costs incurred by mayor's position

AT a recent full Vale Council meeting, the Independent Group of councillors proposed that no allowances be paid for the roles of mayor and deputy mayor in the future and that the posts be unpaid honorary positions.

The proposal was defeated by the other party groups, and a motion was passed that the posts should remain as paid positions.

The Independent Group told The GEM that its opposition to mayoral costs remained, arguing that in the current financial climate with cutbacks taking place, extra costs incurred by the mayor and deputy mayor were unjustified.

The group claims that with items of expenditure such as staff and a chauffeur driven car the excess cost could be as high as £100,000.

Coun Kevin Mahoney, speaking on behalf of fellow Independent Group members Couns Chris Williams, Phil Clarke, Richard Bertin and Bob

Penrose, maintained: "The Independent Group's opposition to the continued payment of extra allowances to the mayor and deputy, plus all other associated costs, do not reflect criticism personally on the current or past incumbents."

"It is a statement on our feelings with regard to extra costs at a time when Vale Council tax payers are being asked to contribute more while office holders appear immune from austerity measures."

Coun Neil Moore, the Leader of the Vale Council, said: "I believe that the Independent Group have misunderstood the role of the mayor and the deputy mayor."

"I consider the roles to be important and the true worth of the positions is much more valuable than the cost incurred in paying the extra allowance, which is consistent with the council's constitution."

"The mayor and deputy mayor carry out the civic functions of the council. These functions would still need to be undertaken irrespective of

whether they received an allowance for doing so.

"These important civic roles carry significant responsibilities; the majority of the invitations are precisely because they are the First Citizens of the Vale."

"They meet visiting dignitaries and carry out all ceremonial functions, as well as supporting many local charities, voluntary organisations and individual members of the public and I know that their presence is highly valued at community events."

"I think that people should realise that they are also expected to spend money in the role, which is not an expense they can recoup."

"Perhaps I should also highlight the fact that the previous mayor, Coun Margaret Wilkinson, and the deputy mayor, Coun Howard Hamilton, attended approximately 300 public functions in their official capacity in 2013/14, on top of carrying out their role as councillors."

"During the year the mayor also raised in excess of £11,000 for her

chosen charities.

"The extra allowance for the mayor and deputy mayor could amount to £10,900. However, this year that figure will only be £8,200. I do not consider that the suggestion of not paying the mayor and deputy mayor would save £100,000."

"The administration costs involved in the office would still be the same, whether or not the mayor and deputy mayor were paid. The organisational and administrative work undertaken by the staff would need to remain the same as the functions of the office would need to continue as before."

"The suggestion not to pay for the civic role would only therefore save approximately £10,900 at most and this year only £8,700."

"The comment that was made about office holders being immune from any cuts is also incorrect and ignores the fact that these allowances are set by an independent panel appointed by the Welsh Government to review the senior salaries for all councils."

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National Survey shows public satisfaction with Welsh NHS and schools

TAKING stock of how people view our public services in Wales is important for Government at all levels, and the results of the National Survey for Wales provide the insights and feedback we need.

With face-to-face interviews across Wales, involving more than 14,000 people aged 16 and over, this is a thorough and robust survey, providing detailed information about people's views on health, transport, education and other aspects of life such as access to the internet. The latest survey published last week shows that 75 per cent of households now have access to the internet, up from 73 per cent in 2012.

The survey results also include key findings for our public services and those who work in them, with:

- 92 per cent of those interviewed saying they were satisfied with the

care they received from their GP at their last visit;

- 91 per cent were satisfied with the care they received at their last appointment at an NHS hospital;

- 92 per cent of parents were satisfied with the primary school their child attended and 85 per cent were satisfied with their child's secondary school.

In summary, satisfaction with the NHS and schools in Wales remains high, with an overall rating for health at 6.2, education 6.3 and transport 5.9, where zero is 'extremely bad' and ten is 'extremely good'.

In welcoming the publication of the National Survey, I said that this was an important resource that we will use as we develop and assess our policies to improve our public services.

I know these findings are also useful for local authorities and local health boards as they plan the services they will be delivering over the coming year.

For the full results for

ASSEMBLY NOTES



by Jane Hutt
AM (Minister for Finance)

2013-14 see: www.wales.gov.uk/national_survey.

The results of the National Survey for Wales are also reflected in the Welsh Government's 2014 annual report to the National Assembly for Wales this week.

In his statement to the Assembly, the First Minister took the opportunity to thank all the public service workers across Wales who have played their part in the progress that has been made over the past year. He said:

"It is also to the credit of public services

workers across Wales that the National Survey shows that people are making a positive assessment of the wide range of public services that they use, despite the pressures of rising demand and the challenging financial environment on those services."

This report is set against the backdrop of the challenging financial environment, with our Welsh Government Budget set to be less by 10 per cent in real terms in 2015/16 than it was in 2010/11. I am undertaking a 'Budget Tour' across Wales to find out from frontline staff what they think should be our priorities with a reducing budget from Westminster.

With groups of staff coming together to meet with me, what is clear is their commitment to the services they provide, with clear and innovative ideas about how we can help them improve their services in these constrained times. Those ideas will be fed into the Budget process.

Included in these discussions are representatives from the

third sector – the voluntary organisations who work in partnership with the statutory sector.

Volunteers

I was pleased to help launch Cardiff and Vale Volunteers Week at the Norwegian Church last Sunday, with High Sheriff David Jenkins.

Together we congratulated the volunteers who make such a contribution in our communities and I was pleased to thank the Vale Volunteer Bureau for their work, which has reported an increase in volunteering hours over the past year in the Vale – a rise from three million to over four million hours of volunteering.

This also includes the volunteering work of young people like Max Williams and Candy Srinivas who have won Wales Volunteer of the Year Awards this year.

There will be a chance to meet many of the Vale voluntary organisations in King's Square in Barry this Saturday (June 7) from 11am – 3pm as part of Volunteers Week.

Come and join us!

Penarth bakery fined for hygiene offences

THE operator of Cottage Bakery, Penarth, Mr Les Middleton, was found guilty of four offences under food hygiene regulations at Cardiff Magistrates Court.

The case was brought by the Vale of Glamorgan Council environmental health team, following an inspection of the premises in June 2013.

Environmental Health Officer, Rowan Hughes, explained: "During an inspection on June 19, 2013, environmental health officers discovered very poor food hygiene standards at Cottage Bakery.

"These included a lack of cleaning, inadequate maintenance, inadequate temperature control and cross contamination issues.

"Our officers also found there to be no food safety management system in place, as is required by law."

After pleading guilty to the offences, Mr Middleton was ordered to pay a £250 fine for each of the four offences, as well as £1,000 towards the costs of the council, and a victim surcharge of £25.

Coun Neil Moore, Leader of the Vale Council, commented: "This prosecution sends out a clear signal that we will take robust action when the public are put at risk by poor food hygiene."

"All premises preparing and selling food must display their most recent food hygiene rating. I would encourage Vale residents to check these so that they can purchase food in the Vale with confidence."

Cottage Bakery scored a rating of one out of five (Major Improvement Necessary) under the Food Hygiene Rating System. The premises has since been refurbished.

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FOOD OPERATORS' TAKE-AWAY FINES FOR HYGIENE OFFENCES

A FAST food operator who spent three years on the run has been tracked down and ordered to pay over £1,500 after being found guilty of 27 food hygiene offences.

Mr Gouren Lin, who used to run the former 'Yummy Kitchen' in Moriah Place, Kenfig Hill, was initially prosecuted by Bridgend County Borough Council after Environmental Health Officers witnessed numerous offences, mainly relating to dirty kitchen equipment between October and November 2010.

Mr Lin failed to appear in court in 2011 and a warrant was issued for his arrest. He was finally arrested in Heathrow on March 28 before appearing in court three days later, when he was ordered to pay costs of £984.59 and fined £540 (£20 per offence) plus a £20 victim surcharge.

A second food business operator has also appeared in court after hygiene standards at their premises were found to be 'horrifying'.

Mr Fouad Mahmood Mujahid, the former proprietor of 'Salt N Pepper' on Oxford Street in Pontycymer, pleaded guilty after visits from Bridgend County Borough Council's Environmental Health Officers uncovered poor hygiene practices, including the failure to adequately separate raw and cooked food during preparation, which could have led to food poisoning.

A warrant was issued for Mr Mujahid's arrest after he failed to appear in Magistrates Court in 2013. He was arrested in April this year before appearing in court, where he was fined £700, along with £700 costs to the local authority, plus a £70 victim surcharge.

Vale MP tells of threat to adult learners' centre



FOLLOWING 'rumours' of potential closure of Palmerston Education Centre in Barry, local MP Alun Cairns visited the site to meet local adult learners.

He visited the classrooms to see the display of the work that ranged from glass crafts through to craft and design and the skill development such as digital photography, computing skills and re-upholstery.

The MP commented: "This facility is extremely important to the local community. It provides a helping hand to adults wanting to get back into work and ensures older people don't become isolated."

"There are some very talented students here and it is hard to believe that we have had to fend off rumours of closure."

'SAVE THE VALE'S ICONIC BUILDING'

FURTHER to representations about the planning application at the 3 Golden Cups campsite, I have taken an interest in the other blight on Southerndown, namely the old Home for the Blind, formerly the Dunraven Hotel.

It has been confirmed to me that the property is currently not up for sale, which I think is ludicrous. The fact that there is no plan in place to rescue or develop one of the Vale's most iconic buildings is extremely sad.

In the meantime, the site continues to be an eyesore for all who live in or visit

Southerndown. In addition, the site is plagued by organised metal thieves who have systematically stripped away the once beautiful interior.

I personally don't want these people targeting the village, as I'm sure they will spot other opportunities for criminal activity when they are in the area.

The link below is a video of the state of the interior - absolutely fascinating for those of

us who have never seen inside, but sadly showing the huge scale of dilapidation

Those who agree that something positive needs to happen, please email Coun Franks, Committee Chair, who in fairness appears sympathetic and proactive: familyfranks@btinternet.com (Colin Franks). **James Bowen, Southerndown.**

SAFE fun day

SAFE Foundation was at Porthkerry Park on Saturday for a family fun day in the sun to raise awareness (with a treasure hunt) of their work as a charity in Uganda, with the support of Vale4Africa.

Chair of Vale4Africa Ted Arbuthnot joined Jane Hutt AM and SAFE director Mark Dickens and volunteers for this Porthkerry Park event.

Ambulance Service hails the volunteers

THE Welsh Ambulance Service is paying tribute to its 3,000-strong network of volunteers as part of Volunteers' Week.

Almost 3,000 Community First Responders and 270 Ambulance Car Service drivers work alongside frontline ambulance staff to help deliver high quality healthcare and services to the people of Wales, a spokeswoman writes.

Community First Responders are volunteers who give up their spare time to attend 999 calls and give first hand emergency care to people in their own community.

They are trained by the Welsh Ambulance Service to administer basic first aid, oxygen therapy, cardiopulmonary resuscitation and the use of a defibrillator.

Mick Giannasi, chairman of the Welsh Ambulance Service, said: "Community First Responders work day and night to provide an initial response to patients suffering from life-threatening and

potentially life-threatening conditions.

"They play an important role in making sure patients receive appropriate help quickly and efficiently, and we are personally proud to be associated with such dedicated life saving schemes across Wales."

In December, the Trust presented its inaugural Dr Jennifer Bucknell Memorial Award, designed to recognise an individual or team who have gone the extra mile in their role as a Community First Responder.

It was inspired by Jennifer Bucknell, who was studying medicine at Cardiff University when she died from an undiagnosed heart condition in 2011, three weeks before her final exams.

The 23-year-old, a keen rower, had been a Community First Responder in Cardiff for five years.

The award was presented to Liz Evans, of Llantwit Major, who was recognised for her actions when a child went into cardiac arrest at a GP surgery.

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Health board has £2.4 million plan to cut the waiting lists for surgery

THE Cardiff and Vale University Health Board is to invest £2.4 million into cutting hospital waiting lists for surgery.

Following concerns raised a year ago, a team from the Royal College of Surgeons visited University Hospital of Wales and praised progress in improving surgical services, but said there was substantial work still to do.

A health board spokesperson said that the UHB has developed a business case to increase the number of heart surgery procedures performed each year to 1,100 and in the longer term, expand to 1,300 procedures with additional medical and nursing staff and cardiac intensive care beds.

In addition to the longer term plan the health board had taken "a number of immediate actions" to see those heart patients in most need. They included recruiting extra medical and nursing staff, introducing weekend working, ring-fencing surgical beds, investing £1.3 million of Welsh Government funding to replace critical cardiac theatre equipment, and using services elsewhere to tackle long waiting lists for heart surgery.

Dr Graham Shortland, the board's Medical Director, said: "There has been an incredible

amount of work to improve surgical services over the last year and things have moved on considerably.

"However, we do know that there is still much to do and we are only at the start of delivering our ambitious proposals.

"I would like to thank the clinical teams who have really led the development of these plans and whose hard work and dedication I am sure will lead to significant improvements for patients."

In a letter to the health board following the visit, Mr David Ward, vice president of RCS said: "The RCS team was encouraged to note that there was both documentary and verbal evidence to demonstrate that the UHB had taken the concerns previously raised by the College seriously and that they had initiated a clear programme of work to address these issues.

"It also appeared from the documentation reviewed and the meetings held that a number of improvements had already been made."

'Suspension of nurses troubling' – SAYS TORY AM

NEWS that three more nurses have been suspended at Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend, was described as "deeply troubling" by Tory regional AM Andrew RT Davies.

It comes after seven nurses were suspended from the Princess of Wales Hospital over the last year, and he commented: "The seemingly relentless 'drip, drip' of suspensions and inquiries is hugely damaging for staff morale and public confidence in services at the Princess of Wales.

"That said, justice must be done and steps need to be taken to ensure that patients get the level of care they deserve.

"Professor Andrews' recent report painted a picture of poor management and neglect, with patients enduring horrific conditions in the care of those in charge at the hospital.

"The public needs to be reassured that these issues are being thoroughly addressed. It would be naïve to presume that the cases highlighted by Professor Andrews were restricted to elderly care," the Welsh Conservative leader added.

Free compost scheme is a 'victim of its own success'

COWBRIDGE Compost is still supplying compost free to people in the Vale, but changes have to be made because the service is a "victim of its own success".

The GEM contacted the owner of Cowbridge Compost, John Homfray, after receiving a letter saying that the service had ceased.

The service has been available for a number of years at Llwynhelig Farm, just outside Cowbridge.

However, Mr Homfray said that free compost was still available, but that the

car park was getting clogged up because so many cars had been turning up, each collecting only one or two bags.

He said: "We will happily fill up a trailer so that, for instance, a group of allotment holders can use it, but the sheer number of cars, each taking a small amount, has been a problem".

He said that Cowbridge Compost had been in discussion with the Vale Council to see if a suitable site was available where the company could dump quantities of compost for public collection.



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Orangery expert Nigel Hocking explains: "We start the process by asking 'how do you want to use the room?' Once the

ideas flow, the exciting part of creating something completely bespoke begins."

In these early stages, Securahome's designers create a 3D CAD model to help homeowners work through their ideas.

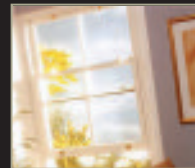
"Over the years those ideas have included wood burners vented through a pillar, fold away 'glass walls' created using bi-folding doors and ultra-modern floor to ceiling glass," Nigel adds. "Just about anything is possible."

Aesthetics aside, when you create your perfect living space, it's important to be able to enjoy it – whatever the weather. To ensure that's possible, high levels of insulation are a must.

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LEFT:
The Vale
mayors are
pictured with
Ms Hutt,
Barry War
museum
volunteers,
Coun Chris
Elmore,
Valeways
staff and
supporters.

How Emmaus charity has opened up Claire's world

IN November 2012, 'Claire' became a volunteer with Emmaus south Wales, having just completed a rehab programme for an addiction to amphetamines.

A single mother with five children and no immediate family to ask for help, she purchased them from a drug dealer. After three years of being addicted, she lost two of her children.

Having no self-esteem or confidence and without asking for professional help, she had hit rock bottom and even questioned her reason for going on living.

When she had completed a rehab programme, Claire joined Emmaus south Wales as a volunteer, thinking it would be good to be occupied during the day.

This helped more than she ever imagined, as it made a huge difference to her life. The work gave her a purpose and by using her skills she could make a valuable contribution to the charity.



ABOVE:
"Emmaus gives a sense of purpose"

After only eight months as a volunteer, she obtained a job as deputy manager at the new Emmaus South Wales superstore in Bridgend.

During this time she also began an NVQ in retail and her success story carries on: she has now been made manager of the Emmaus South Wales busy shop in Porthcawl.

Claire said: "Emmaus south Wales has helped me to stay clean and has opened up a huge range of options for me. Now I have a reason to live again."

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Volunteers are singled out for praise at festival

VALE mayors gathered to meet volunteers at a high-profile launch of the Vale of Glamorgan Walking Festival held at Barry Island Station on May 30.

They included Coun Howard Hamilton, Vale county borough; Coun Jeff Evans, Barry; Coun Martin Turner, Penarth; Coun Peter Knapp, Cowbridge and Coun Mick Mason, Llantwit Major.

Hosted by Jane Hutt, AM for the Vale, the launch event included a presentation by the Chair of Valeways, Meirion Morgan, who spoke about the work of the charity formed in 1996, to help maintain walking routes.

The 60 volunteers are supported by a small grant from Environment

Wales, and Ms Hutt commented:

"Valeways is a remarkable organisation which is helping to open up our beautiful county to visitors, as well as local people who want to enjoy short or longer walks led by experienced and trained volunteers."

"The annual walking festival is very popular and I enjoyed the walk from Barry Island Station around the Island, led by Phil Gibbons, with World War One stories from Barry supported by the Barry War museum volunteers at the Station."

For further information, contact www.valeways.org.uk, Info@valeways.org.uk or 01446 749000.

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Hairdresser's surprise retirement party!



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Barry hairdresser
Lynne Nesbitt
recently retired
after 50 years in
the business.
She is pictured
(above) with loyal
customers who
attended her
surprise retirement
party at Cadoxton
Methodist Hall.
On the left, friends
and family are
seen celebrating
at the party with
Lynne (front row,
centre).

AMBULANCE DELAYS 'NATIONAL DISGRACE'

WELSH Tory leader Andrew RT Davies AM called ambulance response times a "national disgrace" after new figures showed just 56.7 per cent of ambulances responding to 'category A' emergencies within the target eight minutes.

The figure for the Vale of Glamorgan was 57 per cent. Mr Davies said: "The Welsh Labour Government has missed its targets 21 times in the last 22 months, while response times here in the Vale of Glamorgan remain woefully low."

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ZEON Chemicals Europe Limited (ZCEL), based in Sully is part of an innovative, global company, and has just celebrated its 25th anniversary.

The group's cutting-edge products are sold worldwide and used in items as diverse as smartphones, cameras, TVs, and cars.

James Hooper, the operations director, said: "We aim to contribute significantly towards progress in society by promoting our various technologies and new materials to achieve the future today through the power of chemistry."

Mr Hooper explained that the origins of the parent company go back 64 years.

"Nippon Zeon Company Ltd was initially established in 1950. It was originally a manufacturer of polyvinyl chloride resins – the company became the first Japanese enterprise to produce synthetic rubber in the 1950s."

Nitrile rubber was first produced on the Sully site as long ago as 1958, at the same time that Nippon Zeon was producing similar rubbers in Japan.

The 'Zeon' part of the name derives from the Greek word 'geo' (earth) and 'eon' (eternity).

Mr Hooper explained: "In 1965 Nippon Zeon – later to become Zeon Corporation – developed and licensed a unique process for the extraction of high purity 'butadiene' the main raw material for

synthetic rubbers.

These technological advances led to Zeon attaining a position as a world-class manufacturer of synthetic rubbers.

"As part of its strategy to become respected world leaders in the production of specialty rubbers, Zeon Corporation acquired the Sully nitrile rubber manufacturing business from BP Chemicals in 1989, and Zeon Chemicals Europe Limited was born.

"Material produced by ZCEL at Sully goes into products as diverse as petrol pump hoses, break pads, insulation hose and milking machines.

"All employees transferred from BP Chemicals to ZCEL and 15 of them are still with us and were able to celebrate our 25th anniversary."

The company held a celebration on April 1 this year. The current president of Zeon Corporation is Mr Kimiaki Tanaka and the managing director of ZCEL is Mr Shinji Komiyama.

The company's corporate philosophy is: "To contribute to the preservation of the earth and the prosperity of the human race."

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 15)

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'You probably don't realise it, but Zeon's influence is all around you..!'

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14)

At Sully there are 87 employees who mostly live within 15 miles of the site. There are three Japanese employees and their families who live locally too.

It employs 3,163 people across the world.

GROWING MARKETS

Mr Hooper stressed: "Today Zeon is a truly global enterprise, setting up sales networks in major markets around the world and establishing a production system for rubber and resin products.

"In addition to the research and development facilities in Europe and the US, we are building a research and development and sales base in China, a rapidly growing market.

"We now operate in Japan, Britain, Germany, France, USA, Brazil, China, Singapore, Thailand, Korea, Taiwan, Malaysia, and Vietnam."

You probably don't realise it, but Zeon's influence is all around us.

Mr Hooper said: "Zeon products are highly versatile, functional materials used in all kinds of things you see and use in every day life.

"Our latex is widely used in rubber gloves including medical gloves, gloves used in the kitchen and work gloves. It is popular due to its low allergenicity.

"Zeon manufactures synthetic rubber for automobile tyres. Attention has been given to synthetic rubber that improves tyres' ability to roll more easily which means better fuel efficiency, and greater safety for occupants.

"These kinds of tyres protect the global



ABOVE: Mr Shinji Komiyama presenting a gift to Martin Davies at the 25th anniversary celebration.

environment because they increase a vehicle's fuel efficiency and reduce CO2 emissions.

"We also produce an oil and heat resistant long-lasting synthetic rubber that is widely used in automotive parts such as engine timing belts."

Zeon also contributes to a number of today's most popular electronic products.

Mr Hooper added: "Another product has superior optical performance and is used in LCD televisions, smartphones and tablet devices.

"Zeon Corporation estimates that roughly 90 percent of the world's powderpuffs made from NBR latex uses Zeon latex because of its high performance and ease of processing."

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A commitment to local community



ABOVE: A steam powered loco that was once used on-site, but is now at Swansea National Waterfront Museum.



The 25th anniversary plaque – marking Japanese-Welsh partnership.

Z EON Chemicals Europe Limited in Sully has a strong commitment to the community.

Locally the company is part of the 'Joint Sites Committee' with the other companies on the complex including Dow Corning and Momenite.

James Hooper, the operations director, pointed out: "The companies meet regularly to discuss site issues such as health and safety, noise concerns and security."

"We also take part in the 'community advisory panel' which brings local people onto site to discuss any issues or concerns they may have about living near the

complex.

"The panel also gives people the chance to see the site and understand what we do and how we do it. We aim to demonstrate the corporate philosophy that a safe and consistent work environment is the foundation of all production activities."

"The panel also allows us the opportunity to update our neighbours on investment plans and our continued efforts to improve the environment and safety."

"For example, in recent years we invested in a multi-million pound environmental improvement which reduces our waste water."

ZCEL also helps to

support the local community with sponsorship and donations.

Mr Hooper said the company had backed employees raising funds for both UK national and Welsh charities.

"In the last year we have financially supported employees carrying out a bike ride in aid of Noah's Ark Children's Hospital and Barnardo's, and played a golf match to raise money for LATCH."

"We provided donations towards kit and equipment for youth football teams, a karate club, a surf life-saving club and a touch rugby team."

"All this is co-ordinated through the ZCEL Welfare Committee."

"The committee was set up to help sustain employee satisfaction by making improvements to the working environment and arranging offsite activities."

"Each Christmas we hold a party for employees and their families and it is very well attended. The children receive presents and get to meet our very own Santa."

ZCEL has a number of initiatives in place to invest in its employees ranging from a newly launched 'Cycle 2 Work' scheme to supporting education through to degree level."

Mr Hooper emphasised: "We believe that happy employees are motivated employees and motivated employees are productive employees."

The 25th anniversary was a landmark day for ZCEL and a confirmation of the company's on-going investment in the Sully site. Mr Hooper said the partnership between Japan and Wales was also marked on the day.

"We celebrated by holding a buffet for all the employees and they were thanked by Mr Joe Fushimi, Executive Director with Zeon Corporation, and Mr Shinji Komiya, Managing Director with ZCEL."

"Fifteen employees have been with the company throughout its

25 year journey and those able to attend on the day were also thanked for their outstanding service."

"Employees were then presented with the gift of a commemorative Welsh slate cheeseboard engraved with the flags of both Japan and Wales."

"Fifteen employees have been with the company throughout its 25 year journey and those able to attend on the day were also thanked for their outstanding service."

The message at ZCEL for 2014 is 'Change and Challenge'. The company said it pledges to continue to improve environment and safety performance and maintain ZCEL as an attractive place to work.



ABOVE: The staff who had themselves achieved 25 years with ZCEL from left to right: Andrew Deyes, Patrick Hartery, Lee Richards, Bob Webber, Paul Morris, Peter Hooley, Martin Davies, Eddie Payne, Angela Hartery, Tony Green and Graham Jenkins.



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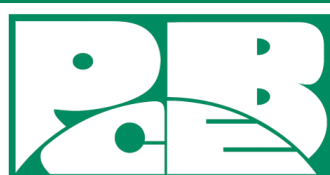
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Congratulations on celebrating 25 years and our continued service to the company.

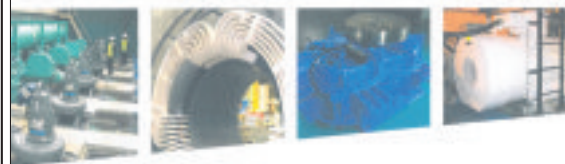
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Charity for disabled children launches £50k fundraising challenge

A CHARITY that helps 150 disabled children in Bridgend and the Vale has launched a £50k appeal, following changes in grant funding.

Y Bont is asking the community to get behind its fundraising campaign and aims to raise the first £10k in just one month.

To coincide with 'World Cup fever' they are kicking off with a football theme – Y Bont's 'Kickaway 2 raise £10k' – hopes to raise £10k by the end of June, with the support of local companies and groups.

Fundraising activities
IT partners ITCs and @AgentPro have committed to

raise £5k to help Y Bont's 'Kickaway 2 raise £10k' challenge by arranging a five-a-side football tournament at Pencoed College on June 28.

Companies who would like to enter a team can contact Monique 08456 444 200.

Also, seven members of their team are doing a sponsored sky dive – they have already raised over £1k towards their £5k target!

Children at Y Bont are in training for a sponsored 'Goal-shoot' during the five-a-side event and staff are arranging a 'Bake-Off'.

Coity 'Choirs in the Castle' are donating the proceeds of the evening on Saturday June 21 at Coity Castle to Y Bont and Barclays Bank, Bridgend are arranging a sponsored cycle in the

foyer of the bank.

Gerald McCarthy and Kevin Ellis recently arranged a sponsored walk at Ogmore by Sea, raising £250 for Y Bont and also plan a 24k SAS challenge on July 5 over the Brecon Beacons with a 35 lb Bergen back-pack!

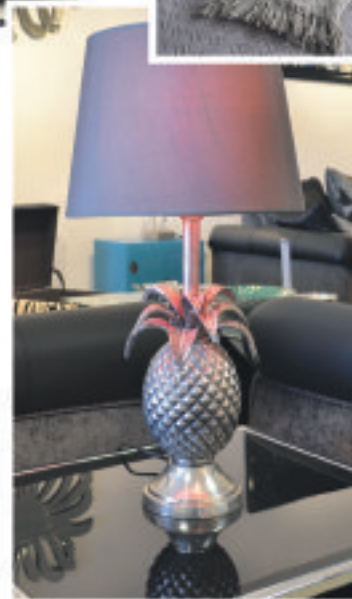
If anyone wants to make a donation to Y Bont's 'Kick away to raise £10k' use the following justgiving links – txt BONT97 followed by amount (£1, £2, £3, £4, £5 or £10) to 70070; or donate via www.justgiving.com/ybontski ckaway2raise10k.

If you wish to arrange a fundraising event to support Y Bont please contact Mags Griffiths or Elliott Frewen on 01656 646013 or e-mail admin@ybont.com.

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Zoo bus pays visit to Vale



THE Bank Holiday weekend saw some exotic creatures visit the Green Dragon Inn, Llancadle, when Dr Mike Leahy and his Zoo Bus drove into town.

Scientist and TV presenter Mike spent a few days parked up at the pub and received visits from both Rhws and Llancarfan Primary Schools. The school children had the opportunity to hold some of the creatures, including snakes and spiders!

Mike, who has presented shows on the BBC and National Geographic channels, also gave evening talks to adults who visited the pub.

Ian Solomon, who lives in the Vale said: "It was absolutely brilliant to visit the Zoo Bus and meet Dr Mike and the animals. It was both enjoyable and informative; and something that was a bit out of the ordinary for a Bank Holiday weekend!"

There are plans for Mike to return to the Green Dragon Inn next year. Keep up to date with events taking place at the Green Dragon via their Twitter @GreenDragonLlan and Facebook accounts.

Anti-racism group visits school



SHOW Racism the Red Card recently visited Bryn Hafren School to lead a series of workshops with year-8 pupils.

Chris Stokes taught the pupils what racism is – "any incident which is perceived to be racist by the victim or another person."

The pupils discussed acceptable words to use in today's society and reasons why other words are

not appropriate.

Pupils also learned about stereotypes and Chris helped them understand why it is wrong to be a racist by seeing things from others' points of view.

Miss G Price, who organised the day, said it was a valuable experience for the girls to understand about racism and the effects it can have on people.

Kate Roberts

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The Bear's bake-off will boost cancer fund

A LOCAL hotel group is
putting on a charity bake
off competition to raise
funds for Velindre
Hospital.

Town and Country Hotels, who
own the Bear Hotel in Cowbridge,
are long-time supporters of
Velindre and, later this year in
September, owner Julian
Hitchcock and his team – the
'Bear Back Riders' – will be
cycling hundreds of miles on the
east coast of America in another
fundraising challenge.

However, if your talent is
baking rather than cycling, then on

June 19, from 9.30am to 12 noon
in the Bear Hotel's St Quentin's
Suite, a bake off challenge could
be right up your street!

Cakes need to be on site by
9.30am, with judging starting at
10.15am.

Bakers from around the Vale
will be welcomed, and each
person must pay £5 to enter – with
all the money going to Velindre.

There are three categories:
Victoria sandwich with raspberry
jam; Three decorated cup cakes;
Favourite loaf cake

The judges will be Kath
Mephem of the W1, TV chef
Dudley Newbery, and the GEM's

General Manager, Caroline Attya.

The star prize will be a £100
gift voucher for Town and
Country Hotels. Also offered as
prizes are a family day out at
Trecco Bay Holiday Park, and a
round of golf for two at Cottrell
Park.

Entries should be submitted to
bakeoff@townandcountryhotels.c
o.uk

The event is being supported by
The Glamorgan GEM, W1, Dudley
Newbery, Crystal Print and
Design, ALS Photography,
Parkdean Trecco Bay, and Cottrell
Park Golf Club.

SHIRLEY'S £1,000 TARGET FOR TEENAGE CHARITY TRUST

IN the early hours of Sunday
morning Shirley Howman, will
be participating in the London
Nightrider Challenge to raise
funds for the Teenage Cancer
Trust.

Shirley, who is a ladies team captain
at Dinas Powys Lawn Tennis Club, and a
peripatetic music teacher across
south Wales, explained that she was
inspired to cycle for the charity having
seen through her teaching experience
young people suffering from cancer.

In Shirley's words: "This is a cruel
disease, wherever it strikes, and
particularly cruel and tragic when it
strikes children and young people
whose lives have barely begun".

Last September, Shirley underwent
a knee operation and began cycling as
part of her rehabilitation, and has
become an active participant in the
sport.

Last week, however, Shirley's plans

to take part in the charity event almost
came off track when her bike was
stolen.

That's when Shirley's partner Nigel
Williams, a committee member at
Dinas Powys Tennis Club, stepped up
and saved the day by purchasing her a
new bike.

Shirley has so far raised sponsorship
of £706 for the UK charity, which is
'dedicated to improving the quality of
life and chances of survival for young
people between the ages of 13 and 24
who have cancer'. Shirley is hoping
she will achieve her target of £1,000
sponsorship for the Teenage Charity
Trust.

If you would like to sponsor Shirley
please find her Virgin Money Giving
page online

at
<http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/ShirleyHowman> or send any donations to
Dinas Powys LTC with a note for
Shirley and the Club will pass it on to
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Shirley Howman

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Internet awareness competition won by local schoolgirl

A SCHOOLGIRL from Bridgend has won an Internet Safety art competition run by South Wales Police and the Welsh Rugby Union, as part of Safer Internet Day to raise awareness of internet safety amongst children aged 11 and under.

Sarah Mohamed from Maes yr Haul Primary School fought off stiff competition from 1,000 other schoolchildren to take overall first prize. Her colourful poster grabbed the judges' attention because of its neat, clean design.

Other winners in the competition were Cole Rees-Williams from Edwardsville Primary School, Merthyr Tydfil, who designed a poster themed around age-appropriate online games, and Jessica Davies from Cwmddare Primary School in Aberdare, who designed a poster around cyberbullying. Alfie Earing, from Ffynnon Taf Primary School in Taffs Well also won a



Sara Mohamed.

prize in the colouring-in part of the competition.

Detective Superintendent Lorraine Davies said: "The internet opens up great opportunities for children where they can learn, play, access music, keep in touch with friends and generally have fun; however we all have a responsibility to ensure that they are aware of the potential risks they could face."

"Competitions like this give us an ideal opportunity to engage with schoolchildren across south Wales and share important safety messages with them".

The winners were treated to a trip to South Wales Police Headquarters, where they were presented with their prizes by Chief Constable Peter Vaughan, Osprey's rugby player Matthew Morgan and Jeremy Rogers from the WRU.

They were also given an insight into the work of the force, and visited the dogs and mounted section, roads policing, the public service centre and the scientific support unit.

Jeremy Rogers, WRU Club Operations Advisor (Safeguarding) added: "We're proud to work with South Wales Police to support competitions like this one. They are a fun way to get some really serious messages to young children and encourage them to think about keeping themselves safe."

The winning designs will be used in the force's future Internet safety marketing campaigns.

Every school that took part in the competition will be issued with a certificate of thanks in recognition of their support of the Safer Internet Day.

COED HILLS CONCERT

COED concert club at Coed Hills Rural Artspace, St Hilary, features pianist David McNulty in concert on June 6 at 7.30pm.

The all-Russian programme includes Prokofiev's Romeo and Juliet op 75 (excerpts); Peter And The Wolf (transcriptions) and Rachmaninov's second sonata op 36.

Contact coedconcertclub@gmail.com for all enquiries. Adult tickets £10; children admitted free.

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FEATURE**

NATIONAL GLAUCOMA AWARENESS WEEK

June 9th - 15th 2014

Dr Adrian Jones, at Jones & Jones Optometrists, is one of only 65 optometrists in the UK holding a specialist qualification in the diagnosis and management of glaucoma. He was the first optometrist in Wales to register with specialist therapeutic status with the General Optical Council. After spending almost a decade in specialist glaucoma clinics at the University Hospital of Wales in Cardiff and Bristol Eye Hospital he has a wealth of knowledge and clinical expertise in this area.



The effect of moderate glaucoma on vision.

Chronic glaucoma affects 2% cent of the population over the age of 40, increasing to over 10% for those aged 75 or more. There are about 500,000 people in England and Wales with glaucoma, and about 70 million worldwide, making it one of the leading causes of blindness. Unfortunately, there are no noticeable symptoms until extensive irreversible damage to

the optic nerve has occurred resulting in unrecoverable vision loss, and it is estimated that up to 50% of people with glaucoma are undiagnosed.

Risk factors for open angle glaucoma are:

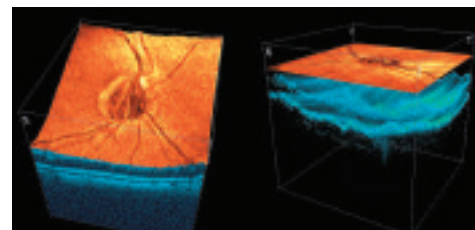
- High eye pressure
- Over 40 years of age
- Father, mother, brother, sister or child with glaucoma
- Short sightedness
- Afro-Caribbean origin
- History of migraines or Raynauds syndrome

Risk Factors for angle closure glaucoma

- Over 60 years of age
- Long sightedness
- Female
- Asian origin

Other common types of glaucoma can affect young short sighted Caucasian males, or those with Scandinavian origins. A history of blunt eye trauma and use of corticosteroids for the treatment of asthma can also increase your risk of glaucoma as well as cataract.

Needless blindness from glaucoma can be easily averted as it can often be treated with simple eye drops. The key to successful treatment is early diagnosis. To increase your chance of being diagnosed early, you should have a sight test at least every two years – or more frequently if you have a first degree



3D OCT imaging of an optic nerve with glaucoma.

relative with glaucoma. There are three basic tests that should be conducted by all opticians which may be available on the NHS for some patients.

A basic sight test can often only detect glaucoma when substantial nerve damage has already occurred. Jones & Jones Optometrists has the combination of cutting edge technology, such as 3-dimensional OCT optic nerve imaging, and extensive clinical experience which means Dr Jones is able offer a gold standard glaucoma diagnostic service and comprehensive on going aftercare that is really only found in hospital eye clinics.

If you are concerned about the possibility of glaucoma, Jones & Jones Optometrists on High Street Street in Barry have dedicated glaucoma clinics for diagnosis and further management. To book an appointment please ring 01446 400015 or visit our website on www.jonesandjones.org.uk

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NATIONAL GLAUCOMA AWARENESS WEEK

June 9th - 15th 2014

TAKE 'ACTION FOR SIGHT', urges IGA charity

THIS year's National Glaucoma Awareness Week is urging people to take Action for Sight, and have regular eye tests, particularly if they are at an increased risk of developing glaucoma.

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ABOVE AND BELOW: Barry Eye Centre has a wide range of products to take care of any of your eye requirements.



People of African-Caribbean origin are four times more likely to develop the condition, and are more likely for it to appear earlier and for it to be more severe, when compared to people of European origin.

Early detection and treatment literally saves sight, as over 90 per cent of individuals who are diagnosed early will retain useful sight for life. Despite such promising results, it is estimated that over 50 per cent of cases of glaucoma remain undetected in the UK. Awareness and regular eye health checks are critical. Glaucoma is one of the leading causes of preventable blindness.

There are no early symptoms and it isn't until the condition is fairly advanced that people recognise that there is something wrong with their vision. Once vision is lost, it cannot be recovered.

A simple eye health check can pick up the condition early and treatment, which most commonly includes

taking eye drops, means most people will maintain sight for life.

The IGA will be supporting the Action for Sight campaign through awareness packs which will be distributed via hospitals, opticians, and through our members and volunteers. The campaign will also be supported by the launch of new research into general awareness and understanding of glaucoma.

For more news about National Glaucoma Awareness Week, follow us on Twitter, @TweetIGA, search using the hashtag #ActionForSight, or join our Facebook community.

The helpline can be called on 01233 64 81 78, and the website, glaucoma-association.com, has an interactive forum.

See more at: glaucoma-association.com/blog/national-glaucoma-awareness-week-action-for-sight-2014.html#sthash.VbuuExDR.dpuf

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Mean thieves strike at local playground

OVER the last few weeks, Barry RFC volunteers decided to make the club more of a family community and obtained a grant for a children's playground.

This grant had to be met by the mini and junior committee – the total cost was £5,000 and that was only the beginning! It then took several days to install it, again all done by various volunteers.

But bit by bit, day by day, the playground grew! The volunteers were driven on by the reward of seeing the kids' faces as they played on the new equipment.

The build committee then realised there was nowhere for the parents to sit and watch the kids



ABOVE: The playground at Barry Rugby Club was recently hit by thieves.

while they were playing. Up stepped the ladies team, the Bombettes, who donated two large picnic table/benches.

The park committee then held a raffle to raise money for new bins which we purchased. At

a lot of people, especially all those involved in building and planning the park.

Rachel Baron, ladies' team manager, later received a message from the manager of the Colcot Arms, offering two of their picnic benches to help replace the missing ones.

"We would like to say a massive thank you to Vicky Hocking for a lovely gesture. It just goes to show there are still a lot of good people out there. Let's make sure the minority don't spoil it for the majority of people that work hard for the community in Barry," she said.

"Please contact Barry Rugby Club between 7pm - 11.30pm seven days a week, if you have information about stolen items."

RB

Live a life of adventure... WITH MARIA LEIJERSTAM

DDOUBLE world record holder Maria Leijerstam from the Vale of Glamorgan, founder of the Burn Series of multisport events and qualified personal trainer, will inspire you with a weekly column on simple family sporting adventures in the beautiful countryside of south Wales.

Maria will guide you on how and where in your area you can combine sport and fitness into family fun.

I SEEMS appropriate this week to talk about the Hay Book Festival which is 27 years old this year and has been running all week.

It has grown from a tiny event that started out with a few local book lovers exchanging books on the side of the road in Hay-on-Wye to today's festival, which is one of the largest in the country.

On Friday, I met up with local Paralympic gold medalist Josie Pearsons at the festival and we attended the launch of a new children's adventure and sport book published by Atebol educational books known as the Spark series.

It was wonderful to address the crowd of almost 400 aspiring young adventurers and sports stars and share our stories of the highs and lows we'd experienced on our own journeys.

I took some real inspiration from what Josie had been through since her car accident in 2003, and the way she was able to pick herself back up again and continue to fulfil her dream of becoming a professional athlete.

As I drove home that evening, I swung by Hay Bluff, which was screaming out at me to climb it. Hay Bluff sits at the northern tip of the Black Mountains, south of the town Hay-on-Wye and east of the A438.

Unfortunately, time didn't permit for me to climb it in this instance; however, it's a perfect challenge for you on your next weekend off. It stands at 677m so is very manageable for a family day out on a good weather day.

The Offa's Dyke national trail is one option for reaching the top from the northern face. However, it is a little steeper than the more commonly walked



path to the summit known as Fynnon y Parc.

The mountain is designated as open country and you are free to roam and find your own path also. For me, this brings huge satisfaction and is exactly what I did when I reached the top of Hay Bluff earlier in the year.

Set yourself the challenge and let me know how you got on. Log onto www.burnseries.co.uk/ youradventure for full details including links to

maps and directions.

Make sure you join me next week, for more adventures. Telephone: 07862 227 187; email maria@burnseries.co.uk. **FOOTNOTE**

This column is provided for idea purposes only. Always check with your doctor if you have concerns about your health, prior to embarking on any form of physical activity and let someone know where you are going.

Have you heard of Glympse? It's a brilliant free app that shares your location with anyone you want for a specified period of time.

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COUNCIL'S ART COMPETITION

M E R T H Y R DYFAN Cemetery in Barry has been in existence for 125 years this year and to mark this, Barry Town Council will hold an open day there on September 13.

A spokesperson said that the council will be holding an art competition, 'Barry Through the Ages 1889-2014', open to all. The entries may take

the form of artwork or photography and there will also be a separate competition for the schools on the same theme.

A prize of £125 for the winning entry will be offered, which will be judged after the closing date of July 11.

All entries should be sent to: The Clerk, Barry Town Council, 7 Gladstone Road, Barry, CF62 8NA (telephone 01446 704920).

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News from Ysgol Bro Morgannwg



These talented young pupils of Ysgol Bro Morgannwg all recently competed at the National Eisteddfod in Bala.



ON Thursday, May 22, a concert was held to showcase the talents of those from Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg and Ysgol Gymraeg Nant Talwg who competed at the Urdd National Eisteddfod in Bala during half term. The quality of performance was very high!



Penarth Computer club: Cloud computing (part 1)

MEMBERS and visitors turned up to hear what Mike J had to say about Cloud Computing.

It became clear that not everyone was familiar with the concept and we needed to remind ourselves what the 'Cloud' is to appreciate what it can do for us. I'll deal with that first.

Computers were developed during and following World War Two. Once the smart people started thinking about their potential, science fiction writers came up with their ideas of what the future would hold... initially, the general vision was that big computers in municipal ownership would be accessed by the public.

Isaac Asimov wrote about robots with "positronic" brains in the early 1950s. By 1960 John McCarthy, who developed the concept of time-sharing computer capacity, had also coined the phrase Artificial Intelligence (AI) and started its development that continues to this day.

Things didn't turn out the way they imagined. We are still a long way from full AI, but the municipal machine was not required as technology raised the power and reduced the cost of computers so much that they became household items.

The time-sharing concept worked very well and led to the data connections between research centres (networking).

The various networks eventually became interconnected to produce internetworking, naturally truncated to be referred to as the Internet.

This name is now used to refer to the millions (billions?) of computers and servers/storage devices around the world.

The next step was the invention of a language to speed up

communications and make the transfer of information easier and to relate it all together so that a piece of information was easy to find.

Bravo, Sir Tim Berners-Lee, who invented the language we use to do just that. He also invented the world wide web.

That is the name he gave to the system that stores all the information and allows his other contribution, the browser, to access it – all 150 billion pages.

We can say that the internet is the equipment, and the web is a service running on it that allows access to a vast store of information.

Another difference is that the internet is the whole set of equipment, but the web is just one service that it carries.

Other services include education; online banking; e-mail; telephony; e-commerce (shopping and trading); advertising; online gaming and data transfer.

The ease of data transfer enables business to offer other services such as storage and access for personal data such as documents and pictures and to store and provide access to programmes as well.

The location of all this is anywhere and everywhere so it's described as being "in the Cloud".

Next time: Mike's views will allow us to explore the differences cloud computing might make to our busy lives.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday, June 10 at All Saints Lesser Hall, Victoria Square, Penarth, 7.30pm for 8pm. Mike J discusses Website Design. Visitors always welcome. See penarthcomputerclub.co.uk.

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GEM ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

In Business Update

WELSH RUGBY STAR GOES BACK TO SCHOOL!



WALES and Llanelli Scarlets hooker Ken Owens went back to school recently, as part of a community visit set up by a local oil distributor.

The Welsh international rugby star visited a primary school as part of his ambassador duties for Oil 4 Wales.

Over 120 pupils had the opportunity to get signed autographs from Ken and former Welsh international Dafydd Jones, who is now a sales executive at Oil 4 Wales.

The pupils were able to quiz Ken on his rugby career in a special question and answer session, as well as have a go at Oil 4 Wales' 'spin the ball' competition.

The school visit was one of several community events put on by the national oil brand for Wales which prides itself on putting the local community at the heart of its operation. Over the summer months, the company will have a presence at summer and agricultural shows across Wales, including the Vale Show.

Dafydd Jones said: "At Oil 4 Wales, our slogan is 'working with the community, for the

community' and this school visit really demonstrates how we bring this ethos to life."

Wales and Llanelli Scarlets hooker, Ken Owens, commented: "It's always great to get out and about to meet fans. Oil 4 Wales is a great company to be involved with as they are truly passionate about Wales and serving the Welsh community."

Oil 4 Wales is an independent, family run oil distribution company. The company supplies in excess of 35,000 customers with a range of fuel services to homes, businesses, commercial premises, agricultural and retail customers.



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"I'm delighted to work with this family-run business which has the community at the heart of its operation."

Welsh rugby international Jonathan Davies - Oil 4 Wales' brand manager

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Working with the community, for the community

Give your confidence a boost at exam time!

HAVE you ever felt exam stress hold you back?

Often, we know our subject but something 'blocks' us from conveying it at exam time. Most of us are able to learn and absorb

information well, yet when it comes to being tested, some suffer from 'exam stress' and don't perform to their potential.

Often stress starts months ahead – not just at exam time. Contributing factors include bad experience; lack of confidence or low self esteem and when performance in an exam is linked to our sense of worth as a person, it's quite easy to suffer from perfectionism or fear of failure.

The good news is hypnotherapy is a powerful tool which can help students feel more at ease ahead of the exam; more focused and able to assimilate information during studying.

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Recycle old packaging...

PACKAGING is one of the most common sources of cardboard.

While some is needed to preserve the quality of goods, the Vale's management team urges you to choose carefully when buying.

Cabinet member for the environment and visible services Coun Rob Curtis suggests:

"Recycle as much card as you can – from boxes, food packaging, hygiene products, card egg trays, kitchen/toilet rolls and cereal boxes.

"As colleague Vicky Lannen (pictured) shows, be sure not to leave anything out of your

collection and choose items that have minimum packaging when you shop."

Did you know decomposing cardboard produces methane gas? So make sure you recycle – card may be recycled four or five times before its quality degrades and it becomes animal bedding or similar.

What's in your bin?

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Vicky Lannen

GEM ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

In Business Update

Top Star service with Multifuels!

WHEN you need a service you can rely on, look no further than Star Multifuels, a family-run business headed by former Wales and British and Irish Lions star Shane Williams.

Star Multifuels are among the leading suppliers and installers of domestic oil storage tanks in south Wales.

They pride themselves on exceptional customer service, workmanship and very

competitive pricing – whilst also being available 24/7 for emergency call-outs, in the unfortunate case of a leaking tank.

Shane Williams may currently be wowing rugby fans in Japan, but he is looking forward to the future of the company.

"The next year will see a new and exciting direction for me. Having previously worked with a national oil distributor, I'm really looking forward to getting back to grass roots as they would say in rugby.

"It's great to be working with my family and serve the many fans that have supported me throughout my career. Give us a try, we won't disappoint!"

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Penarth man awarded Churchill Medallion

ARTS Project Manager from Penarth Philip Thomas was presented with a Churchill medallion at a prestigious ceremony in London last week, after completing his Winston Churchill Travelling Fellowship.

He was presented with a Churchill medallion by guest of honour, Dame Mary Peters, Olympic gold medal winning pentathlete and 1972 Churchill Fellow.

Dame Mary presented 113

Fellows with their medallions at a ceremony in Church House, central London.

Winston Churchill requisitioned Church House as a makeshift Houses of Parliament after the originals had been damaged by bombing. It was also from Church House that he made his famous speech announcing the sinking of the Bismarck on May 24, 1941.

As part of his Fellowship, Philip travelled to the USA to investigate the American Senior Theatre movement, with a view to setting up a senior theatre

company for Wales. The Readers Theatre of Wales was set up in 2013. More details can be found at www.readerstheatreofwales.com.

Philip said: "The Travelling Fellowships provide opportunities for British citizens to go abroad on a worthwhile enterprise of their own choosing, with the aim of enriching their lives through wider experience – and to bring back the benefit to others in their UK profession or community through sharing the results of their new knowledge".

Judge calls for a second opinion on Maesteg woman's psychiatric state

by AJ SICLUNA

SENTENCE has been adjourned at Cardiff Crown Court for the preparation of a second psychiatric report on a 54-year-old Maesteg woman who deliberately placed a piece of lighted paper through the letterbox of a flat in the town.

In March, Tina Potter, of Caerau Road was found guilty of arson, being reckless as to whether life would be endangered.

On that occasion, the case was adjourned for psychiatric report and this week, when she appeared for the second time, Judge Christopher Llewellyn-Jones QC

requested a second psychiatric report and she was remanded in custody.

Prosecutor David Elias said Potter had differences with a neighbour who lived below her.

Potter had caused a nuisance, put takeaway food through her letterbox and made loud noises.

Matters came to a head last November when Potter was seen in the road, drunk, and shouted at her neighbour Bethan Worrell: "Come over here, and you are dead."

Ms Worrell ignored her.

The following day, a teenage girl saw Potter light a piece of paper

and put it through a letterbox. But because of her drunken state, said Mr Elias, she put it through the letterbox of another neighbour.

The letterbox itself was damaged as well as a draught excluder.

"But that was only a matter of chance," said Mr Elias.

The piece of paper used was a receipt for a

purchase of a cigarette lighter from a local shop.

Potter was arrested and said: "No, I didn't start a fire" and claimed she had been "set up" by neighbours who wanted her evicted.

She denied having a lighter, and said she had never smoked.

The court heard that in 2010, she had committed an offence of arson in a supermarket.

Lions mark anniversary



John Andrew presenting a cheque for ValePlus to Mick Mason, Mayor of Llantwit. PHOTOGRAPHY by DAVE EDWARDS

ON Saturday, May 31, Llantwit Major and Cowbridge Lions Club held their 31st charter anniversary dinner in the Duke of Wellington banqueting hall in Cowbridge.

Pre-dinner drinks and canapés were served in the Physic garden opposite. Fortunately, the rain held off so the 70 guests were able to enjoy the lovely garden and harp music beautifully played by Ioan Wardhaugh, a year-10 pupil at Cowbridge School.

One of the aims of Lions is to support the development of young people in the community so the club president, John Andrew, was pleased to present loan with a cheque to assist with his musical development and that of his fellow students at the school.

A total of 36 Lions present included members from the Porthcawl, Glantawe, Cardiff and Bridgend Clubs. The guests of honour were the new Mayor and Mayoress of Llantwit Major, Coun Mick and Bridget Mason, who were attending the first formal dinner of their year. Partners and friends took the total to 70.

Speeches were appropriate, brief and humorous and were followed by the presentation of a cheque

to Mayor Mick Mason for ValePlus, one of the Mayor's chosen charities.

The raffle was generously supported by guests and the money raised will be used to further the charity and service work of Lions, both locally and internationally. The star prize, dinner for four at the Duke, was donated by Brains. A variety of other prizes were donated by the members of Llantwit Major and Cowbridge Lions.

The night was rounded off by dancing to a disco. The next Lions event will be the Llantwit Major summer fayre on Saturday, June 21, on the Rugby Club Field, organised in conjunction with the Llantwit Major events group and is shaping up to be bigger and better than ever.

A great family day out for the whole community. A new initiative for this year is the Bake Off competitions. There will be one competition for children who are asked to make iced fairy cakes, and another for adults who will make a Victoria sponge. Entries can only be made via the Llantwit Major and Cowbridge Lions Club website, <http://www.lmancdclions.org.uk>, where recipes are given. Entries are limited to the first 20 applicants in each class.

John Andrew, President, Llantwit Major and Cowbridge Lions Club

Travellers warned to 'check data'

LOCAL passengers are being urged by the Welsh Government's public transport information service, Traveline Cymru, to check that transport information they are receiving is up to date.

Earlier this month, Google updated its online Map functions, with public transport information for the whole of Wales. However, Traveline Cymru is warning users that during these early stages of Google's development there is evidence that the quality of the data supplied, and the frequency with which it is updated, is catching some commuters out.

Graham Walter,

managing director of Traveline Cymru said: "While we welcome moves to make public transport information more widely available, at this stage in the development of Google's map function we're not confident the data is being updated regularly."

"We have a team of staff dedicated to continually updating transport data from bus, train and coach operators across Wales to ensure we have the most accurate, comprehensive and up to date information."

"By obtaining, monitoring and daily updating timetables, routes and fares, we can ensure that we deliver the highest possible quality of public transport information to the people of Wales."

SPORT ON THE SQUARE

ON Saturday, June 7, youngsters from across Barry will be given the chance to get active and try something new, for free.

The Apprecia8 volunteering event, organised by The Vale Volunteer Bureau and supported by the charity StreetGames, takes place between 11am and 3pm at King Square on Holton Road and is open to anyone aged between eight and 24.

As well as encouraging more young people to try and take

part in exercise, organisers are also hoping to recruit sports leader volunteers.

Caro Wild, StreetGames Wales manager, said: "It's great to see so many partners working together. Sport has been proven to have so many positive outcomes for individuals and communities and young volunteers are the single most important factor in making a local sports session successful".

For more information, call 01446 421782 or visit the website www.vvb.org.uk.

Out and About with The GEM

Blooming Great Tea Party for Marie Curie!

GREAT British Bake-Off star, Mel Giedroyc, is asking GEM readers to hold a Blooming Great Tea Party for Marie Curie Cancer Care this June.

It can be a cuppa with colleagues, a vintage inspired tea party, or garden party with friends, a spokeswoman said.

The money raised will help Marie Curie Nurses to provide more free care to people with terminal illnesses in their own homes.

For more information and to sign up for your free Blooming Great Tea Party fundraising pack, visit www.mariecurie.org.uk/teaparty or call 0845 052 4184.

To get help from the Marie Curie Nursing Service, talk to your GP, district nurse, or discharge nurse. For more information, visit: www.mariecurie.org.uk.



Peterston parish party

THE Peterston-super-Ely parish garden party will be held on June 21 in the rectory garden from 1pm to 5pm.

There will be a barbecue, teas, cakes and also Pimm's. For the children, there will be ice-creams, games and a bouncy castle.

Also, there is a range of stalls including plants, strawberries as well as bric-a-brac.

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Vale AM's surgery

THE Vale AM, Jane Hutt, will be holding a surgery tomorrow (Friday, June 6) from 4pm – 6pm at Trinity Church Hall, Trinity Street, Barry.

Moth night!
THERE will be a moth night in Old Hall Grounds, Cowbridge on Friday (June 6) from 9.30pm–11.30pm (weather permitting). Bring a torch warm the organisers, Cowbridge Community Centre.

"The moths will be on show at Old Hall on the following morning, 9.30am–11.30am, and will be released unharmed later. If you haven't seen these beautiful insects up close, be prepared for a

surprise," said spokesman John Sherwood (01446 773373).

Catch Up Club
VALE Council-led Barry Communities First is launching a Catch Up Club for children aged 10 – 13 years in Barry – to meet friends, catch up on homework, use computers, or to take part in fun activities.

It will run every Tuesday at Castleland Community Centre from 3.30pm – 5.30pm; and every Thursday at Parkside Christian Centre, St Brides Way (3.30pm – 5.30pm).

Contact Holly Morgan on 07730 284143 or visit www.BarryCommunitiesFirst.org for details.

BOOK REVIEWS

River Taff – FROM SOURCE TO THE SEA

THE River Taff is one of the iconic rivers of Wales. It flows south from the highest peaks of the remote Brecon Beacons, following an interesting and varied route to Cardiff Bay.

Compiled by Alvin Nicholas and Ingrid Nicholas, the book won't tell you about the famous Taff Swim which was once held in the Taff before it moved to Cardiff's Roath Park.

It won't tell you about the time Red Indians, or should we say Native Americans, Mexicans and cowboys, set up their camp on the banks of the Taff when Buffalo Bill paid the first of his three visits to Cardiff in

1891.

It won't tell you about how following the Norman Conquest, the town of Cardiff, which had grown around the Roman fort on the bank of the River Taff had by medieval times become a well protected town and it won't tell you about the time fishermen in coracles once caught salmon in its then clear waters.

However, if you want to go on a wonderful present-day journey along this historic river, then this is the book for you! Many of the region's famous landmarks are located alongside the river, and they are explored in this beautiful coffee table-type book published by Amberley at £20.

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LibDem surgery
WELSH LibDem AM for south Wales west, Peter Black, will hold a surgery in Maesteg Library from 2pm to 3pm on Friday, June 6.

No appointment is necessary.

Bonsai display
THERE will be a free bonsai tree display at the Len Evans Centre, Aberkenfig, CF32 9PR, on June 7-8, from 10.30am–4pm.

Enfys craft fair
ON Saturday June 7, Enfys craft fair will be held at the St Ffrancis Millennium Hall, Park Road between 10am and 4pm.

Entry is free and a special guest will be visiting between 12 noon and 2pm – Erica Eirian, best known as Sian Davies, proprietor of Trevelyn Stores, in TV comedy drama 'The Indian Doctor'.

Erica trained at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama and Cardiff has been her home with her husband, writer Sion Eirian for 40 years.

The craft fair will be in aid of Action Medical Research.

Ray's work on show

ART Gallery – the former Old Library on King Square Barry – will be hosting a retrospective exhibition of the work of Ray Howard Jones in the coming weeks.

There is a private view on Friday, June 6 of her work and the reason for this particular date is that she was a recognised War Artist and documented, through her art, the preparations made for the D-Day landings.

Professor Tony Curtis will introduce her work at this invited meeting, however, on Saturday, June 14, he will give a further talk at the Gallery (entrance via King Square) which is open to the public at 2pm and refreshments will also be available.

Spokeswoman Monika Jones appealed: "Please use the free Gallery by visiting it regularly, because if we cannot increase footfall, the Gallery might face closure in the future."

"It is a unique feature for Barry and deserves to be celebrated and used much more than it has been by the people of Barry and the rural Vale."

founded in 1952 to find a cure for polio.

For more information, contact Beryl on 01446 418695, or Cyril on 01446 400149.

Support the Rhino appeal
THE Vale Council's biodiversity champion, Coun Rob Curtis, will hold a Fairtrade coffee, cake and conservation morning at his home in Barry on Saturday, June 7 between 11am – 1pm.

Tickets £3; all proceeds go to WWF's Rhino campaign. Donations and raffle prizes will be welcome – make cheques payable to the World Wildlife Fund and post to 118 Merthyr Dyfan Road, Barry, CF62 9TJ.

Digital drop-in
BARRY Communities First are launching free digital drop-in sessions in three different centres in Barry.

The two-hour weekly sessions will take place at the following venues:

Community Enterprise Centre, Skomer Road every Tuesday from June 10 (10am – 12pm); Margaret Alexander Community Centre, every Wednesday from June 11 (1pm – 3pm); Victoria Park Community Centre, every Thursday from June 12 (1pm – 3pm).

For more information, contact 01446 709432, or visit www.BarryCommunitiesFirst.org.

Fibromyalgia support

THE next meeting of the Vale of Glamorgan Fibromyalgia Support Group is on Tuesday, June 10 at 11am–1pm. Ring Gaynor on 01446 733315 for more details

Cowbridge Art Society
ON Thursday, June 12, Cowbridge Art Society welcomes south Wales artist Derek Windsor (see www.coastalgalleriesltd.com) who will give a demonstration using oil paints.

The society meets on Thursday evenings at the Old Hall, Cowbridge; 7pm – 9pm; visitors and new members welcome. For details of activities see www.cowbridgeartsociety.ycom.

Plant fair
AN unusual plants fair takes place on Saturday, June 14 from 10am – 4pm at Old Hall Gardens, Cowbridge, CF71 7AH.

The summer event for garden lovers, plant hunters and horticulturalists is a chance to meet local growers. Prime plants, sensibly priced from herbaceous perennials to hardy nursery stock, plus professional advice on care and planting. Free admission and parking. For further information, contact 01446 774036.

Llandough fete
LLANDOUGH Community Council will hold a fete at the King George V

Memorial playing fields on Saturday, June 14 at 2pm.

It will be opened by the chairman of Llandough Community Council.

Climate talk
A TALK on climate change will be given at Coity Higher Community Centre, Litchard Cross, Bridgend on Monday, June 16 at 6.30pm by Simon Dawes, a climate leader recruited by the Climate Reality Project and lecturer at Cardiff Metropolitan University.

Light look at family life
AUTHOR Rob Parsons and comedy magician John Archer are to present a light-hearted look at family life entitled *Bring Me Sunshine*.

It has been organised by national charity Care For the Family, whose aim is to strengthen family life and help those facing difficulties, at Gilgal Baptist Church, Park Avenue, on June 17 from 7.30pm to 10pm.

Rob Parsons, founder of Care For the Family, explained: "I'll share humorous stories and lessons of family life gained from speaking with many parents from around the world."

John Archer has been described by comedian Tim Vine as "one of the funniest men I know".

Tickets cost £5. Call 01656 771168 or email gillardmc@aol.com.

Local author receives award

VALE-based author Jo Thomas has seen her contemporary novel *The Oyster Catcher*, published by Accent Press, awarded *The Romantic Novelists' Association's* (RNA) prestigious *Joan Hessayon Award* for new writers.

She was presented with her award and a cheque for £1,000 at the RNA's summer party at the Royal Over-Seas League in London.

The award is sponsored by gardening expert Dr David Hessayon, in honour of his late wife Joan, a longstanding member of the RNA and supporter of its New Writers' Scheme.

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Seth McFarlane's western comedy a diabolical disaster

WHILE an animated comedy legend, Seth McFarlane's step up from the small screen of *Family Guy* and *American Dad* (amongst others) to the cinema screen was a journey that could have worked out poorly.

However, McFarlane, with *Ted*, made the transition seamlessly, the film a critical and commercial success.

With a sequel on the cards, McFarlane's latest big screen outing sees him tackle the western genre with *A Million Ways To Die In The West*, where, as well as writing and directing, he plays Albert, a cowardly farmer whose distaste for conflict has seen his girlfriend Louise (Amanda Seyfried) ditch him for Foy (Neil Patrick Harris).

But when he starts falling for mysterious newcomer Anna (Charlize Theron), he is forced to take a more confrontational tack when he also meets her ex, a notorious gunslinger named Clinch (Liam Neeson); will Albert find his courage, or end up losing his life..?

An interesting recent statistic claimed that the number of comedies produced has fallen 23

per cent in the last four years; it's unfortunate that *A Million Ways To Die In The West* was among the lucky 77 per cent that were made, because if there was ever a comedy that you wish you could go back in time and prevent its conception, it is this one.

This isn't a diatribe against Seth McFarlane disguised as a critical review of his film; McFarlane's comedy, while bristling, is something I personally enjoy, yet even the most ardent apologist of the man would find little evidence here to redeem him.

McFarlane has three jobs in this film – actor, co-writer, director – and fails miserably and abjectly at every one. Performance-wise, while vocally he's an incredibly talented performer, he stumbles through resembling a mannequin devoid of control; his facial expression remains the same throughout, his rat-tat-tat delivery weakened by an overreliance on one particular profanity.

He seems to be channelling the nervous energy of a Woody Allen performance, yet lacks the nuance and touch of Allen, the majority of scenes feeling like comedy monologues (and unfunny ones at that) about life in the west in 1882, yet peculiarly



by
GARETH JAMESON
Follow Screen
Talk on Twitter –
@GEMScreenTalk

using 21st century colloquialisms to make his point.

His character is supposedly a man out of time, yet there is no time period where his diatribes would earn anything more than the faintest of snickers, and having co-written the film he is partly responsible for this.

The story is simplistic yet padded out for nearly two hours, and unlike *Ted*, can't manage to bring together emotion and caustic laughs into a satisfactory mix; it's just a series of sketches held together by a narrative that signposts its outcomes early on. Around him are skilled performers,

hamstrung by a laughless script and scant characterisation. Charlize Theron shows she can't do broad comedy, Liam Neeson isn't on screen long enough to do too much damage, Amanda Seyfried has nothing of any note to do other than being a plot device – while Neil Patrick Harris, Giovanni Ribisi and Sarah Silverman are all wasted – the latter pair saddled with a one note joke that is stretched beyond breaking point.

Visually, McFarlane tries to impart scope into proceedings, with the genre staples of golden vistas and horse chases present and correct, but he brings no verve to the jokes, the delivery and the framing of them feeling lifeless, with his limitations as a live-action director coming to the fore.

All in all, *A Million*

Ways To Die In The West is McFarlane's folly, his *Heaven's Gate* or *Battlefield Earth*; a film so bad that the only way can be up for someone who is too clever and talented to make the same mistakes twice; sadly, of the million ways you could die in the west, watching this film is easily slowest and most painful.

VERDICT: A terrible, painful viewing experience, *A Million Ways To Die In The West* is a comedy without laughs, a bloated, self-important film that tanks from the opening minute and only gets worse. Seth McFarlane fails to shine, as do his cast, in a piece of work that I can only assume will become part of a torture routine in years to come. *Avoid at all costs.*

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *Ted* (2012), *Blazing Saddles* (1974)

Ty Hafan lottery draw winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D829.

● **£2,000:** 499030.

● **The rollover, which now stands at £1,000 was not won this week.**

● **£10:** 9 0 2 5 6 3
722515, 499465, 652707, 194832, 927448, 402181, 507494, 967973, 542441, 820791, 773146, 372174, 818609, 353687, 716800, 825090, 472989, 530121, 730337.

● **£5:** 633572, 300330, 521464, 369843, 245589, 667602, 692078, 933165, 390181, 467335,

248829, 904144, 932878, 584497, 717164, 994476, 777029, 340232, 366288, 779612, 168504, 812236, 811410, 473134, 647742, 371602, 131227, 804347, 636379, 544664, 891688, 999325, 400761, 656804, 598417, 280392, 478884, 353974, 587988, 642369, 673350, 615482, 491156, 455118, 947101, 308743, 880406, 724410, 710205, 708844, 397443, 238803, 584849, 569569, 159672, 566786, 649046, 549940, 724169, 690815.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please telephone 029 2053 2300.

Floral Society
ALWYN PAGE of Chepstow will present a floral demonstration entitled 'Less is More' to members of the Barry Floral Society on Tuesday, June 10 at St Nicholas Community Hall, St Nicholas Road, Barry at 2.15pm. New members are always welcome.

GARDENS OPEN

THE weekend of June 7-8 is NGS Festival Weekend, with gardens opening all over the UK.

Gardens opening locally on Saturday, June 7 include:

Slade, Southerndown, CF32 0RP: Set in eight acres, Slade garden is an unexpected gem with masses of spring flowers. The terraced lawns, mature specimen trees, living willow arbours, rose and clematis pergola, orchard and herbaceous borders, create a very natural garden that also has extensive views over the Bristol Channel.

Open: Saturday, June 7 (2pm-6pm), admission £4.

Barry Gardens, CF63 4PP: Four gardens of differing styles: 47 Aneurin Road is an ever changing small vertical garden with a collection of over 30 clematis. Cae Gwyn is a large secret garden with many attractive features including a large pond, gravel garden, pergolas and sweeping lawns; 28 Port Road is a mini

smallholding with lots of creative, eccentric touches, lush, unmanicured, jungly feel with meandering paths; 76 Port Road is a newly developed garden with stunning views over the Vale, a

wonderful old greenhouse and newly planted borders with more to come.

Open: Saturday, June 7, (1pm-5.30pm), admission £5.



Our GEM Facebook winner for May 29, 2014 is:

Claire-Johnson Wheatley

who correctly answered last week's question in The GEM. The answer was:

South Africa

Our lucky winning reader, chosen at random wins a £25 prize voucher to spend with any advertiser in last week's GEM. Our lucky winner has chosen to spend their prize with...

Tiffin Rasoi

The competition runs every week throughout 2014 with a potential prize fund of £1,150.

REMEMBER TO LIKE US AND SHARE ON FACEBOOK:

[facebook.com/glamorgangem](https://www.facebook.com/glamorgangem)



A Junior GEM Competition
In Conjunction With
Cowbridge Charter Trust and HSBC
Open to all local primary & junior school age children

3 cash prizes to be won!

Winner receives £50 with second and third runners-up receiving £30 & £20 respectively!



HSBC have kindly donated a £100 prize fund to Cowbridge Charter Trust which is being used to give the 'Cowbridge Calf' an official name!

To enter, simply think of a name and email your entry (with your age, school name, parent's/guardian's name, and phone number) to: cctrust@hotmail.co.uk or message your details on The GEM's Facebook page. Closing date is Saturday 7th June, 12 noon. Cowbridge Charter Trust will choose the winner and runners up.

Entry Rules

Winners will be required to take part in publicity in The GEM and our online sites. Judges' decision is final. No correspondence will be entered in to. A phone number is required to contact winners to arrange prize presentation.



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You will find the answer in that week's GEM which is available online and in print every Thursday.

Inbox us your answer and contact details. Competition closes at 5pm every Monday.

Every week a winner is chosen at random and will have £25 to spend with any advertiser in that week's GEM!

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Plan ahead with Passmores

LAWYERS around Wales and England are running a national 'Make a Lasting Power of Attorney' campaign to encourage all people to plan ahead to avoid problems if they later lose mental capacity.

It means making a Lasting Power of Attorney (LPA) on the new version of the forms, which came into force in October 2009.

A Lasting Power of Attorney is a legal document that enables one person to make decisions on behalf of another.

There are two types of LPA: financial and welfare. Financial LPAs enable a person to act on behalf of another if, for example, they are ill or disabled and cannot act for themselves.

A welfare LPA enables a person to act

on behalf of another if that person does not have the mental capacity to act for themselves, for example, in the case of a severe stroke.

Without an LPA, it may be necessary for family members to apply to the Court of Protection for authority. This can be a distressing and lengthy process and is far more expensive than making an LPA.

Once all parties have signed the LPA, they must then be registered with the Office of the Public Guardian before they can be used.

Carli Evans of Passmores Solicitors, a member of Solicitors for the Elderly is actively encouraging all people to plan ahead and make Lasting Powers of Attorneys.

People wishing to discuss their requirements should contact Carli Evans to arrange a suitable no obligation appointment on 01446 721000 or by email ce@passmores.com.

PASSMORES

MAKE AN LPA NOW

- Can you afford not to?

Can you imagine a situation where you or a member of your family is no longer able to make decisions? Frightening isn't it?

A Lasting Power of Attorney (LPA) is a legal document, that enables one person to make decisions on behalf of another.

Carli Evans, a member of Solicitors for the Elderly is inviting you to attend a no obligation appointment to find out more.

For more information please call:

Carli Evans on 01446 721000 or by email ce@passmores.com.

SOLICITORS FOR THE ELDERLY

21 Tynewydd Road, Barry, CF62 8HB

CARERS WEEK

9th-15th June 2014

IMPROVING THE LIVES OF CARERS AND THE PEOPLE THEY CARE FOR

GIVING HELP TO THE FAMILY CARERS

THE 2011 Census tells us there are 15,575 unpaid carers in the Vale caring for an ill, frail or disabled family member or friend.

These people are 'carers' - but they would probably say, "I'm just being a husband, a wife, a mum, a dad, a son, a daughter, a friend or a good neighbour".

Carers help with personal things like getting someone dressed, turning them in their sleep, helping them to the toilet, helping them move about or to take their medication.

Carers also help with things like shopping, laundry, cleaning, cooking, filling in forms or managing money.

People might need help for many reasons. For example, they may be

born with a disability or have had an accident that left them disabled; they may have an illness or disease.

Their problems may be physical or mental. They might need help because they are getting older, and frail.

Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan councils and Cardiff and Vale University Health Board are providing

a series of events to give carers access to information and support (see advert).

Each event is open to residents from Cardiff and the Vale. Booking is only necessary for the workshops on Monday June 9. Telephone 01446 704604 or email carersservices@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk.

Do you help **care** for someone in **Cardiff** or the **Vale**?

Come and find out what help is available to **unpaid carers** at our **FREE** events

- Monday 9 June 10.30am - 12 noon and 1pm - 2.30pm
Workshops 1. Stress Control 2. Benefits and allowances for carers
(Booking is essential for the workshops - at Cardiff City Stadium, Leckwith phone 01446 704604 or email carersservices@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk)
- Information Roadshow
Tuesday 10 June, 10am - 1pm
the Hub, Gladstone Road, Barry
Wednesday 11 June, 2pm - 7pm
Capthorne Hotel, Culverhouse Cross, Cardiff
Thursday 12 June, 1pm - 4pm
Star Centre, Splott, Cardiff

Carers' Week

9-15 June 2014



A fyddwch yn helpu i **ofalu** am rywun yng **Nghaerdydd** neu'r **Fro**?

Dewch i'n digwyddiadau **AM DDIM** er mwyn cael gwybod am y cymorth sydd ar gael i **ofalwyr digyflog**

- Dydd Llun 9 Mehefin 10.30am - 12 noon / 1pm - 2.30pm
Gweithdai 1. Rheoli Strain 2. Budd-daliadau a hysbasiu ar gyfer ofalwyr
(Mae'n rhaid caelstraw ar gyfer y gweithdai - yn Stadïwm Dinas Caerdydd, Leckwith ffonwch 01446 704604 neu anfonwch negu i carersservices@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk)
- Sioe Wybodaeth Deithiol
Dydd Mawrth 10 Mehefin, 10am - 1pm
Yr Hwb, Heol Gladstone, Y Barry
Dydd Mercher 11 Mehefin, 2pm - 7pm
Gwesty Capthorne, Croes Cefnwyn, Caerdydd
Dydd Iau 12 Mehefin, 1pm - 4pm
Canolfan STAR, Y Splott, Caerdydd

Wythnos Gofalwyr

9-15 Mehefin 2014



Lucky winner scoops charity lottery jackpot

A **LUCKY** winner has received a call from Tŷ Hafan's Director of Fundraising and Marketing, to tell her she had scooped the maximum **£12,000** in the Sully-based charity's Crackerjackpot lottery rollover.

Joan Merrett from Newport, Pembrokeshire, has played the lottery since it began back in 1998.

Having never won a prize, Mrs Merrett was "very shocked" to receive the news that she had won the rollover jackpot.

She said: "I couldn't quite believe it at first. I've never won anything before and it still hasn't quite sunk in. I've always played the lottery to support Tŷ Hafan but



Crackerjackpot winner Joan Merrett.

never expected this!"

Mrs Merrett made the trip to Sully to receive her winning cheque and enjoy a tour of the hospice and said: "Tŷ Hafan is such a marvellous place. It's been lovely to come and see first-hand the charity I've been supporting for all these years. The lottery is such a great way to support Tŷ Hafan and you never know, you

might be a winner too!"

"The Crackerjackpot Lottery makes a large contribution towards the £3.7 million needed every year to ensure Tŷ Hafan can continue offering its valuable care and support to the increasing number of families in Wales who so desperately need it.

"With 81 guaranteed weekly prizes, including a £2,000 top prize plus a rollover jackpot of up to £12,000, becoming a member of the Tŷ Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery is an excellent way of supporting a charity which makes a huge difference to life-limited children, young people and their families from across Wales," a Tŷ Hafan spokeswoman said.

For more information on how you can join, visit www.lottery.tyhafan.org or call 029 2053 2300.

Police appeal after armed robbery

DETECTIVES in Barry are appealing for the public's help following an armed robbery at a Spar shop on Stanwell Road, Penarth, on Sunday, June 1.

Two men entered the Spar on Stanwell Road just before 8.50pm. A small knife and crowbar were pointed at staff and a quantity of cigarettes and cash were attempted to be taken, before both men fled on foot towards Meliden Road.

Detectives from South Wales Police have launched an investigation

and are currently carrying out a number of enquiries.

Detective Sergeant David Thomas said: "This was a terrifying experience for the staff.

"We would like to hear from anyone who hasn't yet spoken with officers who were in the Spar shop or in the nearby area and witnessed what happened."

Anyone with information is urged to call South Wales Police on 101 or alternatively contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111 or email them at www.crimestoppers-uk.org/give-information.

Parking made cheaper

BEMROSE MOBILE, the company behind 'Phone and Pay' parking at some council car parks in the Vale, is cancelling charges throughout August in all local parking areas where it operates, 'to help families park for longer holidays', during the school holidays.

A company spokesman said: "Previous initiatives have been well

received and so this time we will be investing in more signage, machine stickers and local events in order promote the service to motorists. Our gesture is designed to support families during the school holidays, making it easier for them to park, shop and engage in leisure activities - encouraging people back into the high street and supporting local trade."

Porthcawl Barnardo's volunteer is new High Sheriff for Mid Glamorgan

MRS ELIZABETH SINGER DL, who has been appointed the High Sheriff for Mid Glamorgan, was born in Hereford, but has lived in Porthcawl for 41 years with her husband, Andrew.

They have three sons and seven grandchildren. She chose to have the inauguration in St John's Church, Porthcawl, where she worships, followed by a reception in St John's School.

She made her declaration before Judge Twomlow and the Lord Lieutenant, Mrs Kathrin Thomas CVO, and will serve the county of Mid Glamorgan for one year. Among those present



Miss Stephanie Chick, the new High Sheriff Mrs Elizabeth Singer DL, and HM Lord Lieutenant Mrs Kathrin Thomas CVO.

were the Lord Lieutenant of South Glamorgan, Dr Peter Beck, Madeleine Moon MP, the mayors of the three boroughs of BCBC, Merthyr and

RCT, the High Sheriff's chaplain, Canon Philip Masson, and other High Sheriffs.

Mr Rory McLaggan, the outgoing High Sheriff, spoke about his year of office which he found interesting and rewarding. Mrs Singer said how much she was looking forward to supporting the police, army, judiciary and all the similar organisations which make our communities safe.

After the ceremony was completed, Sir Martyn Narey addressed the guests. Sir Martyn is the former Director General of the Prison Service and the former chief executive of Barnardo's.

He informed the gathering that Parc Prison Bridgend were running a pilot scheme supporting prisoners' families which would be monitored closely and, if proved successful, would be extended to other prisons in Britain.

It has been recognised that 65 per cent of sons of prisoners are themselves likely to go to prison. The scheme is called 'Invisible Walls Wales' and its objective is to break this cycle of

reoffending. Barnardo's are delivering the service in partnership with Parc and the whole scheme has been made possible through funding from the National Lottery.

He said that Mrs Singer had been a volunteer fundraiser for Barnardo's for 30 years and is currently national chair of the Appeals Advisory Board of Barnardo's, whose function is to represent local fundraising groups.

Mrs Singer confirmed that she planned to raise awareness of the work of Barnardo's throughout the county and to raise funds. On Sunday, June 29, a unique event will be held in Bridgend, a celebrity tug of war followed by lunch for 400 guests in the grounds of Pencoed College.

None of the celebrities has asked for a fee, as all proceeds are going to charity. Welsh opera singer Wynne Evans will compete the event.

Details may be obtained from the High Sheriff's secretary, Miss Mary Squire, on 01656 788165 email marysquire@tinyworld.co.uk.

BRITISH LEGION MEETS

THE next meeting of the Royal British Legion's Bridgend branch will be held on June 24 at the United Services Club at 7pm.

The raising of the flag for Armed Forces Day is on Monday, June 21, at 1pm at the Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend.

Armed Forces Day parade is on Saturday, June 28, at 11am at the same venue. A concert will be held in the Bowls Hall recreation centre at 1.30pm.

Tickets £5, available from the recreation centre, Royal British Legion and Mr Ted Williams: 01656 661585.



Sir Martyn Narey, Mr Andrew Singer, the new High Sheriff Mrs Elizabeth Singer DL, Mrs Lana McLaggan and the outgoing High Sheriff, Mr Rory McLaggan. PHOTOGRAPH BY KEITH E MORGAN



The new High Sheriff for Mid Glamorgan Mrs Elizabeth Singer DL



Miss Caroline Norman, HM Lord Lieutenant Mrs Kathrin Thomas CVO and Cadet Sergeant Jessica Norman. PHOTOGRAPH BY KEITH E MORGAN



ABOVE: The new High Sheriff, Mrs Elizabeth Singer, reads her declaration to Judge Twomlow.

Articles For Sale

ADVERTISE HERE £12 inc. VAT - box for 2 weeks. To take advantage of this offer simply either send in your description along with a cheque for the appropriate amount made payable to 'The Glamorgan GEM' at The GEM, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL or telephone us with your wording by 12 noon Tuesday. All major credit cards accepted. Tel 01446 774484. Advert must contain a residential land line telephone number. You may alter your advert as items are sold. **Sorry no refunds are given.**

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YFC MEMBERS PUT HEROES (AND HEROINES) ON SHOW!

THESE pictures were taken by HEATHER MARCH, when Glamorgan Federation of Young Farmers Clubs held their annual rally at Pencoed Campus. This year many competitions were themed on the anniversary of World War One.



Floral Art Under 16: The Wartime Poem. Wick member, Megan Davies, now represents the county at Malvern Show.



Cookery competition, 'Welcome Home a Hero.'



Senior club members dressed as Hero and Heroine.



Scarecrow depicting a Hero - which members assembled in 30 minutes.



Neath Club in the dancing competition.

Singing in the rain, at the YFC rally day!

THE annual rally day for the Glamorgan Federation of Young Farmers Clubs held on May 24 was a great success!

Despite the constant flow of rain, members rallied around competing in a variety of competitions from singing and dancing to cooking and woodwork.

Joint winners of the Rally Cup this year were Bridgend YFC and Neath YFC, while Maendy YFC took third place. County Chair, Beth John congratulated all members and said: "The creativity and resourcefulness of members is inspiring, good luck to those going forward to represent the county at the Royal Welsh Show and Malvern Show."

The breed stockjudging competition took place on Sunday, June 1 in Gower, which saw members from

Wick, Gower and Neath judge Charolais sheep, Welsh pigs and Holstein cattle. The judges commented on the high standard of competition which is an asset to the county.

Next up in the calendar is the summer social event, part of Glamorgan FYFC's 75th anniversary celebrations, on Friday, June 13 at Cefn Cribwr RFC. Tickets are £10 per person, which includes a barbecue. Please contact County Organiser, Gwyneth Thomas, via email glamorgan@yfc-wales.org.uk (or telephone 07779 331839).

Don't forget that you can keep up to date with the latest news, competition results and forthcoming events of Glamorgan FYFC by visiting www.glamorgan.btc.co.uk; following @GlamorganYFC on twitter; or by liking the Facebook page.

HANNAH LEWIS



Display depicting 'Heroes' - 6ft x 6ft. Winners, Wick, now represent Glamorgan at the Royal Welsh Show.

Penarth Computer Club: Are you with IT?

COMPLACENCY is dangerous. The word is much used, certainly in politics, indicating an attitude of mind that simply refuses to care about what it should. There is no shortage of people who have a genuine concern that they feel is not being properly addressed.

What about IT (Information Technology)? Yes; there is complacency all through it (pun intended).

Accusations are being levelled at big companies who are not performing as they should according to Joe Public.

Microsoft has scrapped support for its popular Windows XP operating system. Our Government is paying millions of pounds for continued support for another year. Is this complacency? No company can support all products indefinitely and several years' notice was given.

The timing was unfortunate for a Government dealing with rather pressing matters without any spare cash and which doesn't want the disruption (or immediate cost) of replacing several hundreds of thousands of computers.

Companies will eventually suffer if their decisions are wrong; as will governments. Microsoft might lose a lot of custom if users switch to free operating systems which give most of the performance ordinary users will ever need.

The same applies to their decision to cease support for Office 2003 - did you spot that amongst the furor about XP? You can continue to use it, of course, but there will be a gradual increase in vulnerability.

Your practical choice is to move to Office 2007; the later Office 2010 or the current Office 365 - all of which

is cost money.

It might suit you to go for a free suite such as Open Office that looks as though it will be maintained indefinitely. Latest version 4.0.1.

The recent Heartbleed Bug was an accidentally introduced weakness that affected many websites and should now be fixed. If you want to know if any site is still vulnerable, check your browser's website as it will probably have an add-on that will advise if websites you are visiting are safe from the bug.

EBay have advised all account holders to change their passwords after a security breach.

If you use the same password on any other site, you should change that, too.

Passwords have been my topic on several occasions and there are ways to devise strong ones without having recourse to password managers and with a bit of thought make them memorable as well (to you only, of course).

Complacency check:

- Are you still using your pet's name or your birthday as your password?

- Are you using the same password in several places?

- Could you lose treasured files because it is ages since you made a proper back-up of them?

- Do you happily share lots of personal information on social websites?

If yes to any of these, then consider if it is possible that complacency is, perhaps, just a little too near home.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday, June 10, at All Saints' Lesser Hall, Victoria Square, Penarth, 7.30 pm for 8pm. Mike J discusses Website Design. Visitors always welcome. See penarthcomputerclub.co.uk.

The GEM is now on Facebook - visit us at: facebook.com/GlamorganGEM

Vale Brass band's 40th birthday celebration!

THE Vale of Glamorgan Brass Band will be celebrating 40 years of making music in the Vale this weekend (Saturday, June 7) with a concert at Rhose Community Centre, Stewart Road.

The band was primarily formed in January 1974, at the request of the Barry carnival committee, after two public meetings. Some instruments were available from Barry Silver Band which ceased to exist in 1955.

Mr Islwyn Williams, who was a member of the old band, started a series of youth classes using the old instruments but they were found to

be in such a bad state of repair that it was decided to start fund raising and approaches were made to local industry and businesses for their help.

Within six months, new and re-conditioned instruments were purchased and the band took part in activities for the carnival committee, culminating in the leading of the carnival parade.

Today, the band has 30 registered players performing in and around the Vale under the musical directorship of David Short. There is also a training band, who will provide pre-concert music taken from their first CD recording.

For the concert in Rhose, the band will be joined by special guest,

cornet soloist Robert Westacott, who started his banding career with Pencoed Silver Band at seven years old. He became principal at the age of 10, progressing to The National Youth Brass Band aged 12.

At 18, Robert went to Salford College and joined The Black Dyke Band as assistant principal, staying for four years. He has occupied the principal seat at some of the country's top bands, including Brighouse and Rastrick, Yorkshire

Imperial and Grimethorpe.

Now principal cornet with the James Shepherd Versatile Brass, he conducts the Staithwaite Band in Yorkshire.

The concert in association with 'A Class Apart' and 'CJ Contract Travel Services Ltd' starts at 7.15pm with pre-concert music at 6.45pm. Tickets are £5, available at the door, or call 07917796841.

Philip Maunder

MP hits at ambulance delays

LOCAL MP Alun Cairns this week commented on figures released by the Welsh Government, pointing out that 57 per cent of ambulances responding to emergency calls across Barry and the Vale did so within the target eight minutes during April.

He has campaigned for improved ambulance cover, highlighting a number of local cases where a delayed response could have been a matter of life or death.

Mr Cairns said: "Ambulance targets have been missed 21 months of the last 22, while response times here in Barry and Vale raise serious concerns. The chances of survival for a patient requiring emergency treatment are dramatically improved if the right care can be given quickly and too many patients in the Vale are not getting seen quickly enough.

"I wrote last week in

The GEM about my recent night shift with South Wales Police. At one incident I attended it took one hour and five minutes for the ambulance to arrive, despite several calls to the control room.

"Quite clearly that is unacceptable and again these figures show little is being done to improve the situation.

"Despite the best efforts of ambulance staff and crews, response times continue to decline in the Vale and it's clear that urgent action must be taken by the Health Minister to tackle the issue.

"I will continue to press the matter with the Welsh Government. This cannot continue," he insisted.

Wales a haven from Nazi horror

ORIGINALLY published in Welsh under the title Yr Erid, A Haven from Hitler won the Welsh Book of the Year prize in 2013.

This fascinating book tells the story of the family of Kate Bosse-Griffiths, of German-Jewish descent, who fled the brutal regime of the Nazis and became one of Wales's leading academic and literary figures.

It is a story based on hundreds of letters, documents and first hand accounts by members of the family. They tell of the Nazi-inspired attacks of Kristallnacht, life under their brutal regime, efforts to flee and periods of imprisonment, and the horror of life inside concentration camps.

This 272-page well-illustrated book by Heini Gruffudd and published by yLolfa at £9.95, is a classic story of the war.

Brian Lee

A History of the Welsh Land Settlement Society

L A S T September The GEM ran an article on my research into the Welsh Land Settlement movement.

Much of the output of that research was added to my blog www.wlssealand.wordpress.com for all followers to enjoy, providing many memories and an insight into many issues they were unaware of.

It was a pleasure to make contact with many people connected to the settlements in the area at Trebeferad and Pferm Goch, a number of whose stories are included in my book.

Over the winter and early spring I have put together what I believe to be a factual account of the reasons for the settlements, how they were established and a history of their trading from the beginning until final closure. The second half of the book includes a rich collection of stories provided by some of the settlers and their descendants together with many personal photographs. The book is completed with a round-up of the settlements as they are today.

It is on sale via the blog on a not-for-profit basis at www.wlssealand.wordpress.com/order-the-book.

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THERE was a much more refined and genteel form of equestrian sport on show last Sunday (June 1) when Pencoed College campus played host to the British Driving Society's carriage event..

However, while it didn't have the thrills and spills of Point to point or show jumping, it soon became clear that there was a great deal of skill involved in keeping horse and driver in harmony!



G40 wartime depot recalled



AS the 70th anniversary of D-Day is days away, I wonder whether the attached photos might be of interest to your readers?

You recently published a piece on our convoy of World War Two era vehicles at Barry Island.

From the Island, we went to the industrial site between Barry and Sully, to what was once G.40.

This was a very important supply depot

for the United States Forces stationed in the UK in advance of D-Day and particularly when the Americans (with their Allies) landed on the continent to liberate Western Europe from the Nazis.

It seems so fitting to see these vehicles in their historical context. Some of the original buildings erected by the British and American engineers remain.

How good would it be if some of them could be restored and preserved for posterity?

Glenn Booker, Barry.

Disabled team wins charity game

LAST Sunday, Bridgend DFC took on Wyndham Wanderers in a charity game on the Planka in Ogmere Vale.

The game was in aid of Bridgend DFC and Wyndham Boys Club and was played during the Ty Hafan fun day.

The game was a great success and very close,

with the final score being 6-6 after 90 minutes which then saw the two teams battle it out in a penalty shoot out with our disabled team winning thanks to new recruit Kerry Baker.

What an amazing day for everyone, especially as Bridgend DFC raised £250 towards their trip to the Mental Health World Cup in Sheffield on June 14.

KH

MEMORIAL GAME PROVES A FITTING TRIBUTE TO 'ASHY'



AS over 70 people gathered at Hayes Point there was one familiar face missing - Mike Ashton would have loved an occasion like this.

Old and new faces came together to celebrate the life of the big man who lived and breathed Barry Wanderers for over 40 years.

Befitting the occasion, the sun shone and the crowds gathered to pay their respects. Chris Barnes, the current Barry Wanderers chairman, paid tribute to 'Ashy' and this was followed by a minute of applause.

Inside the pavilion were laid a host of memorabilia - Mike was well known as a collector - and a newly erected captains' board. The official unveiling of the Mike Ashton bench was commemorated by Ron Durose and Elwyn Toozer, while other long-standing players, Gerry Richards and Tony Swannick, paid their respects by sitting on the bench on which they had shared many hours of conversation.

The game itself was set against the backdrop of individual introductions by Chris

Barnes, some less favourable than others, but all taken in the good spirit intended.

Captain of the Old Boys, Jamie Keir, elected to field and the afternoon's entertainment was underway. The wicket was well prepared and even the recent rain could not detract from what would be an absorbing contest.

Peter Coleman and Luke Denning opened the batting with Alan Morris and Allen Mansfield opening the bowling.

Denning was caught early by the sharp reflexes of Alan Hopes. Tom Ridgwell, returning to the fore after recovering from a broken finger in April, took a while to get going on what was a slow wicket but Ridgwell and Coleman took the score along to 40 before Coleman fell to a superb delivery from Adam Walsh.

Ridgwell departed soon after for 11 as he was caught by Andrew Ferguson off the bowling of Ben Collins.

One of Ashy's closest friends of over 40 years strode to the wicket in what would have been a bittersweet moment for Elwyn Toozer. Elwyn was looking to up the scoring rate but

unfortunately found Ben Collins at cover who took the catch and departed for four.

Coming in at five was Mark Ellis, making his first appearance of the season. He had been given the order to nudge and nurdle and occupy the crease and with the sizeable frame of Jonny Hill at the other end, this was always going to be entertaining.

Unfortunately for the baying crowd the entertainment was to be at his expense as Jonny ran himself out like a dog. Hitting a ball sweetly and straight to cover, the athletic Adam Walsh simply scooped the ball up and hurled it to Lanagan, the wicket keeper. Jonny had by this stage set off like the proverbial train (albeit a steam one).

Ellis, correctly judging that there was no run to be had, sent him back and as Hill turned around the transport had now turned into a tanker and he was left stranded without a paddle and a shoe. The assembled throng were left highly amused as he hobbled up the wicket to collect his abandoned footwear and departed for a two ball duck.

Ellis and Bowles battled stoically against tight bowling from Walsh and Morris with



ABOVE and BELOW:
The teams who were in action for the memorial game.



the occasional boundary releasing the pressure. Ellis departed, caught behind for 17, before Wolfenden rallied with a quickfire 12 and the ever reliable Barnes chipped in for a belligerent 19. Dan Bowles top scored with 25 for the present XI to post a slightly below par 126 for 9 off 43 overs.

The tea break allowed everyone to catch their breath and Wanderers

old and young mingled to renew acquaintances, recollect stories and enjoy the top quality food that was on display, including a magnificent cake that 'Ashy' would have enjoyed.

It was now the turn of the old boys to get out in the middle and seasoned veterans Lawrence Williams and Scott McLucas had the privilege of opening the batting against young

guns Alun Wade and Peter Beckett. The opening bowlers battled away diligently but the experience of the opening pair meant that the Old Boys got off to a solid start with 39 being scored off 13 overs.

A change of bowling as often happens did the trick, and Scott McLucas was bowled by all rounder Hill in his first over. Hill then had the Old Boys in trouble by claiming a double wicket maiden by having Lawrence Williams LBW for 19 and then Bowles going for a big shot, caught at mid on by Bowles for a duck.

Glanmor Williams and Andrew Ferguson went stem the tide and get the innings back on track. This they did, with Glan producing four glorious shots, all resulting in boundaries.

It was a beauty of a ball from Bowles that managed to get through Glan's defences and a late inswinger had Colin Rowlands, who looked in the mood before succumbing to the

Bowles swung the game for the present Wanderers XI with a demon spell of 4 for 7 off 6 overs.

Ellis and his bowling accounted for the dangerous Lanagan with Coleman producing the catch of the day on the boundary to see off Lanagan for six before he'd got settled.

Ferguson departed for a fine 16 which led to Jamie Keir entering the fray to be greeted by banter from all around the wicket, Jamie being the most recent Old Boy, having only transferred his allegiance to Lisvane this year.

The banter didn't last for long as Keir departed for a two ball duck with Bowles providing another purler of a ball and Keir's middle stump was dismantled.

With Ben Collins controversially bowled by a full toss by Luke Denning, the rear guard set in with the Old Boys settling for a timed draw. 'Ashy' would have now been in element by thrusting his pad down the wicket in stubborn resistance.

He was not one to give his wicket away cheaply and incumbents of this duty on this day were Adam Walsh and Alan Morris, who dutifully saw out the last five overs with minimal fuss.

It was pleasing to see that the last ball of this timed match was despatched for six by Walsh, the Old Boys ending what had been a thoroughly entertaining and pleasant game on 119 for 9 off 43 overs with the game resulting in a timed draw.

As everyone shook hands and celebrated a successful memorial day the scene at Hayes Point was one of remembrance and recollection of a man who gave his all for Barry Wanderers and will never be forgotten.

I am sure 'Ashy' would have been proud of the efforts made by everyone from tea ladies, groundsman, committee members, players and supporters to play and watch the game in the way he would have wanted.

ME

GOOD PERFORMANCES FROM ATHLETIC

BARRY ATHLETIC 2nd XI were at home to Creigiau on Saturday.

Creigiau won the toss and decided to bat first and struggled as the Barry bowlers got on top and Creigiau were soon bowled out for 126.

The only Creigiau batsmen to shine with the bat were R Thomas with 39 and D Williams with 14; the Barry bowling figures looked good with M Anwar 3-17, S Evans 3-22, captain S Malpas 2-20 and S Phillips 2-15.

Barry's reply got off to a great start with the two 50-year-olds, Paul Murphy and Steve Jones, getting them off to a great start before they lost

Murphy for 32.

Jones was also out for 32, before Barry romped home to an eight wicket win with Ashley Baker 38 not out; Barry ended on 129 for 2.

JONES AND HELLYAR GET BARRY OUT OF THE MIRE WITH 56 RUN PARTNERSHIP

On Sunday, Dinas Powys visited the Island Oval for a second round Welsh cup game and the sun was shining.

Dinas Powys won the toss and put Barry into bat and Barry were soon in trouble as they lost Smith for 0, R Jones for 3, Brock for 0, Ellis for 0, A. Baker for 7, D Goodway for

27 and Gee for 0, as they were reduced to 43 for 7.

Then came the match winning partnership by the two old stagers, Steve Jones and Peter Hellyar, as they added 56 for the eighth wicket before Hellyar was out with the score on 99 for a fine 16.

The last two wickets fell in quick time as Barry were bowled out for 103 in the 31st over with Steve Jones hitting a fine 35 including five runs for a ball he hit into the wicketkeepers' helmet, with L Clarke the pick of the bowlers with 4-29.

In reply Barry soon had Dinas Powys struggling as they lost G Hannah for 0, B Tudor for 4, J Mitchell for 19, N

Piddock for 6, L Dimouro for 0, R Tucker for 0 and J Fleckney for 0, as Dinas were reduced to 40 for 7, a mirror image of the Barry innings and somewhat that of Sully earlier in the season.

Dinas Powys lost their last three wickets for 45 runs as they were bowled out for 85 with Hellyar taking 4 for 7, Gee 2 for 11, Ellis 2 for 13 and Frost 1 for 16, and a Barry win by 18 runs in a nail-biter.

This Saturday Barry 1st XI are home to Newport Fugitives with a 1pm start, with the 2nd XI traveling to face the same opposition on Sunday; the Sunday side are at home to Pentrych.

MR

Visually impaired bowlers boosted by opticians' support

A LOCAL opticians has lent its support to the Welsh Association of Visually Impaired Bowlers (WAVIB).

Specsavers in Maesteg has joined forces with 33 stores across mid and south Wales, to sponsor the association ahead of its first championship of the 2014 season.

The store on Talbot Street is supporting the 53 players and members of the association as they travel to tournaments across Wales and the UK. It will contribute towards the travel and accommodation costs for the tournaments played by members of the WAVIB, as well as team kit branding.

Nick King, director of Specsavers in Maesteg, said: "We're absolutely delighted to support the Welsh Association of Visually Impaired Bowlers for the first time this year. We regularly work with customers who are visually impaired, and we strive to promote the importance of regular eye tests to monitor and

appropriately treat any eye health concerns. Our sponsorship of the WAVIB reinforces that if you suffer from sight loss, it does not have to restrict you from taking part in team sports – which is a common misconception."

The WAVIB is made up of players from bowls club from across Wales, including Barry, Blackwood, Cardiff, Milford Haven, Newport and Swansea.

The Welsh Singles Championships for visually impaired bowlers will be held in Swansea on June 3-5. The tournament will decide which of the WAVIB players will go on to compete at the UK Four Nations Championships in Kelvingrove, Glasgow, which will also be the venue for the Commonwealth Games Bowls competition.

Bill Marshall, vice-chairman of the WAVIB, said: "I'd like to thank Specsavers in Wales for supporting the association. It's an honour to have such a well-known global brand backing us this year."

"It's an exciting time to be part of the



PICTURED: (left to right) John Wilson, team manager WAVIB; Wyn James, Specsavers chairman for Wales, and Bill Marshall, vice chairman WAVIB.

WAVIB. We're gearing up for the Welsh Singles Championships that will determine which members will be representing us at the UK Championships, and two of our members will be flying the flag for us in Glasgow this summer when they represent Wales at the Commonwealth Games this coming July.

"The association

prides itself on bringing together a community of people, from all walks of life, to enjoy the sport. We're delighted to have Specsavers' support in what is sure to be a packed year of activity."

For details of a bowls club in your area, call Bill Marshall on 01792 361894 or Tony Harris on 01495 271376.



The Welsh Wizards with their cheque presented to Rachel Bourke (far right) and Sarah Ashton (second right).

The Welsh Wizards work their magic for charity!

BARRY'S generous skittlers have done it again! At a recent Shoot Out tournament involving 36 teams, there was a surprise in store for organiser Rachel Bourke.

Olympic torch bearer Sarah Aston from Barry's Welsh Wizards team presented Rachel with a cheque for £16,055.58, thanks to their magnificent fundraising efforts at Cardiff airport, raffles and events. Rachel, who will be climbing Kilimanjaro in the autumn, has now over £28,000 as a result.

"I was completely blown away," said Rachel, who has been raising money for Cancer Research UK for 10 years, after losing a family member to cancer. Her Kilimanjaro

climb is just one of a series of challenges she has undertaken over the years.

"I always pick challenges that will make me suffer. In this case, I loathe camping with a vengeance and suffer from acute

vertigo. But I know people will donate more money if they know it's going to cause me pain to complete the task!"

The winning tournament team, the Rumney Rebels from Cardiff, were so inspired by the Welsh Wizards

that they donated their £150 prize money to the pot as well.

Inspired by Rachel's tale? Then visit her page at www.justgiving.com/Rachel-Bourke1.

JB

BRIDGEND TOWN ON FORM

BRIDGEND TOWN CC under-14s continued their travels in Zone D of the South Wales Junior League with their third consecutive away fixture against Neath B under-14s at the Gnoll.

Bridgend lost the toss and were put in to bat and were in trouble at 7 for 2, J Hughes taking both wickets. However, E Biebrach (22) and A Dalton (18) batted well on a slow damp wicket with boundaries hard to come by with such a large outfield. Bridgend posted a final score of 71 for 6 wickets off their 20 overs.

Debutant D Roderick ran out Neath opener J Hughes with an excellent piece of fielding and with Bridgend opening bowler J Hayes bowling a

maiden spell of three overs, Neath made a slow start in the run chase.

The pick of the Neath batsmen were L Smith (16), C O'Grady (11) and M Hynes (10) but the Bridgend attack proved to be too accurate; Bridgend wickets were taken by A Dalton, C Hart and E Biebrach, the latter a fine catch behind by wicket keeper and captain H Evans.

All the Bridgend bowlers acquitted themselves well and with the weather conditions deteriorating and with only seven extras in a Neath total of 49 for 4 wickets off their 20 overs, Bridgend ran out winners by 22 runs.

Team: E Biebrach, J Biebrach, L Cogbill, A Dalton, G Davies, H Evans (wk/c), C Hart, J Hayes, M Padmanabhan, D Roderick.

JH

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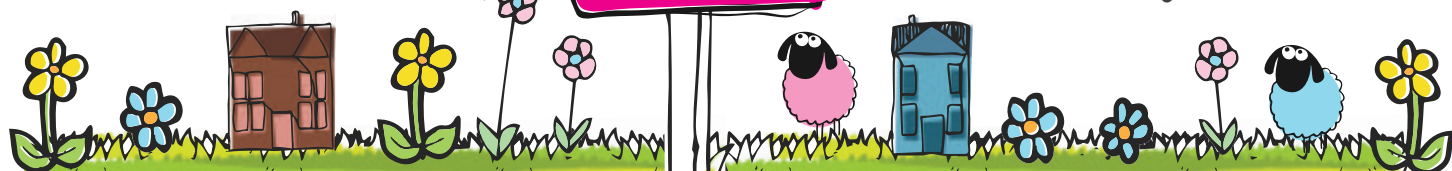
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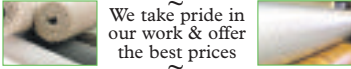
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g2 Energy Renewable Developments Limited is holding a public exhibition to discuss the proposal for the erection of a single wind turbine on land to the north-west of The Grange Farm.

The public exhibition will take place from 5pm to 8pm on Monday 16 June 2014 at Peterston-super-Ely Church & Community Hall, CF5 6LH.

More information about the proposal can be found at the website: www.g2energy.co.uk/renewabledevelopments/the-grange.php

Alternatively please contact the Project Team at g2 Energy Renewable Developments Limited on 01234 905100

The website includes a questionnaire and enquiry form. We would welcome any comments by Monday 30th June.

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Daw'r Gorchymyn hem i rym ar 5 Mhefin 2014. Borch hynny, os bydd unrhyw un sy'n hysgrifio iad, gwel cam, yn dymuniad holl ynghyd dilyniad y Gorchymyn new unrhyw ddiarprifffyrdd ynddo, am nad yw o fewn prifffyrdd Ddeddf Prifffyrdd, ynau na chydymffurfio y gorchymyn y Ddeddf neu reoladur a wnaed o dan y gadarnhawyd y Gorchymyn, call y'r unrhyw llywbrau ariad o'r un uchel llywbrau o dan baragraff 2 Amodiad 2 o'r Ddeddf ddiwyddiedig paragraff 5 Amodiad 6, cyn pen 6 wythnos o 5 Mhefin 2014.

Dyddiedig 5 Mhefin 2014

Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaethau Datblygu, Strydfeirdd y Doc, Heol yr Iffordd, Y Barr, CF63 4RT

NOTICE OF CONFIRMATION OF PUBLIC PATH ORDER

HIGHWAYS ACT 1980

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL (PUBLIC FOOTPATHS NOS 7 (PART), 12 (PART), 56, 57, 59 AND 60 LLANTWY MAJOR) PUBLIC PATH CREATION ORDER 2014

On the 15th day of April 2014 The Vale of Glamorgan Council confirmed the above Order made under section 26 of the Highways Act 1980.

The effect of the Order as confirmed is to create public footpaths as set out in the Schedule and shown in the Order map.

A copy of the Order as confirmed and the Order map may be seen at the address below free of charge between 9.00am and 4.00pm on weekdays from 5th June 2014 until 17th July 2014. Copies of the Order and map may be bought here at a price of £4.50.

This Order comes into force on the 5th June 2014, but if any person aggrieved by the Order desires to question its validity or that of any provision contained in it, on the ground that it is not within the powers of the above Act, or on the ground that any requirement of that Act or any regulation made under it has not been complied with in relation to the confirmation of the Order, he/she may, under paragraph 2 of Schedule 2 to the Act as applied by paragraph 5 of Schedule 6 to the Act, within 6 weeks from 5th June 2014, make an application to the High Court.

Dated this 5th day of June 2014

Director of Development Services, Dock Offices, Subway Road, Barry, CF63 4RT

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Family Notices

WOOD
Graham James (Jim)
On Friday 23rd May at Llandough Hospital, aged 86, of Beech House, Whitchurch, formerly of Barry (Ranks Mill).
Funeral Service will take place at 10.30am on Friday, June 6th at Barry Crematorium, Port Road, Barry. No flowers, donations in lieu to Ward E14, Llandough Hospital in his memory. Enquiries to Castle Court Funeral Home, Pontypridd, 01443 493870.

HAYNES
Valerie
After a long illness on 28 May 2014, Val of Llantwit Major. Dearly loved mother of Stephen, Johnny and Karen. She was a much loved grandmother and great grandmother and will be sadly missed.
Funeral service on Tuesday, 10 June in Coychurch Crematorium at 1.15pm. Family flowers only, but donations may be made to Ward 5, Princess of Wales Hospital c/o the Funeral Director (cheques only please). At Val's request please wear bright colours. All enquiries to W.A. Brown & Son 01446 792489.

RICHARDSON
Graham Clive
Father of Tony and Teilo sadly passed away on 21st May at the Heath hospital.
A funeral service will be held at Barry crematorium at 3pm on the 9th June followed by a gathering at the Cadoxton conservative club. Everyone welcome.

LOUGHER
Mike
Val, Steven, Paul and family would like to thank everyone for their love and kind messages at this very sad time.
Special thanks to everyone who attended Mike's funeral, he would have been smiling at you all. Thank you to Duncan Thomas from Porthcawl for arranging the funeral and special thanks to everyone who was involved in Mike's care.

ARTHUR WHITE
Died June 4th, 2013, greatly missed by all who loved him. A good father and friend.
Sam, Glynys and Girls
OXO

WATSON BRIAN
The family would like to announce that the funeral will now be held at Crossways Methodist Church, Barry on Monday, 9th June at 12.10pm.

Birthdays

Happy 21st Birthday
to our gorgeous
Katie Thompson
June 9, 2014
Hope you have an amazing day!
Lots of love,
Mum, Dad, Emily,
George & Ollie XXX

Anniversaries

Randall Steve & Sue
Congratulations Mum & Dad on your **Ruby Anniversary** June 10th 2014, all our love.
Kelly and Granddaughter Heidi xxx

Thank You

Thank You
Many thanks to the two police officers who came to my help when my car broke down in the NISA carpark.
Edna Clay

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Public Notices

RHYBUDD O GADARNHAU GORCHYMYN LLWYBR CYHOEDDUS DEDDF PRIFYRDD 1980
CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG (LLWYBR MARCH CYHOEDDUS 45 SAINT ANDRAS)
GORCHYMYN CREU LLWYBR CYHOEDDUS 2013
Ar 15 Ebrill 2014, cadarnhaodd Cyngor Bro Morgannwg y Gorchymyn uchod a wnaethpwyd o dan adran 26 o Ddeddf Prifffyrdd 1980.
Effaith y Gorchymyn a gadarnhawyd, fydd creu llwybr march cyhoeddus sy'n cyfateb i'r disgrifiad yn yr Atodiad a'r llin ar fap y Gorchymyn.
Bydd copïau o'r Gorchymyn a gadarnhawyd a map y Gorchymyn, i'w gweld yn rhad ac am ddim yn ystod yr wythnos yn y cyfeirnod isod, rhwng 9.00am a 4.00pm o 5 Mehefin 2014 hyd 17 Gorffennaf 2014. Bydd copïau o'r map a'r Gorchymyn ar werth yn y fan honno am £4.50 yr un.
Daw'r Gorchymyn hwn i rym ar 5 Mehefin 2014. Serch hynny, os bydd unrhyw un sy'n tybio iddo gael cam o'i herwydd yn dymuno holi ynghylch dilyniad y Gorchymyn, neu unrhyw ddarpariaeth ynddo, am y tyb nad yw o fewn pwerau'r Ddeddf uchod, ynteu na chydymffurfio â'i gofynion neu'r rheoladau a wnaed o dani wrth gadarnhau'r Gorchymyn, bydd hawl i'r unigolyn hwnnw wneud cais i'r Uchel Llys o dan baragraff 2 Atodiad 2 o'r Ddeddf drwy weithreidiad paragraff 5 Atodiad 6, cyn pen 6 wythnos ar ôl 5 Mehefin 2014.
Dyddiedig 5 Mehefin 2014
Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaethau Datblygu, Swyddfeydd y Doc, Heol yr Isffordd, Y Barri, CF63 4RT

NOTICE OF CONFIRMATION OF PUBLIC PATH ORDER HIGHWAYS ACT 1980
THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL (PUBLIC BRIDLEWAY NO 45 ST ANDREWS MAJOR) PUBLIC PATH CREATION ORDER 2013
On the 15th day of April 2014 The Vale of Glamorgan Council confirmed the above Order made under section 26 of the Highways Act 1980.
The effect of the Order as confirmed is to create a public bridleway as set out in the Schedule and shown in the Order map.
A copy of the confirmed Order and Order map may be seen at the address below free of charge between 9.00am and 4.00pm on weekdays from 5th June 2014 until 17th July 2014. Copies of the Order and map may be bought here at a price of £4.50.
This Order comes into force on the 5th June 2014, but if any person aggrieved by the Order desires to question its validity or that of any provision contained in it, on the ground that it is not within the powers of the above Act, or on the ground that any requirement of that Act or any regulation made under it has not been complied with in relation to the confirmation of the Order, he/she may, under paragraph 2 of Schedule 2 to the Act as applied by paragraph 5 of Schedule 6 to the Act, within 6 weeks from 5th June 2014 make an application to the High Court.
Dated this 5th day of June 2014
Director of Development Services, Docks Offices, Subway Road, Barry, CF63 4RT

RHYBUDD O GADARNHAU GORCHYMYN LLWYBR CYHOEDDUS DEDDF PRIFYRDD 1980
CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG (RHANNAU O LWYBRAU TROED CYHOEDDUS 1, 2 A 7, LLANILLTUD FAWR) GORCHYMYN DILEU LLWYBRAU CYHOEDDUS 2014
Ar 15 Ebrill 2014, cadarnhaodd Cyngor Bro Morgannwg y Gorchymyn uchod a wnaed o dan adran 118 o Ddeddf Prifffyrdd 1980.
Effaith y Gorchymyn a gadarnhawyd fydd dileu'r lwybrau cyhoeddus fel y'i h aglunwyd yn yr Atodiad ac y'i dangoswyd ar fap y Gorchymyn.
Bydd copïau o'r Gorchymyn a gadarnhawyd a map y Gorchymyn, i'w gweld yn rhad ac am ddim yn ystod yr wythnos yn y cyfeirnod isod, rhwng 9.00am a 4.00pm o 5 Mehefin 2014 hyd 17 Gorffennaf 2014. Bydd copïau o'r map a'r Gorchymyn ar werth yn y fan honno am £4.50 yr un.
Daw'r Gorchymyn hwn i rym ar 5 Mehefin 2014. Serch hynny, os bydd unrhyw un sy'n tybio iddo gael cam, yn dymuno holi ynghylch dilyniad y Gorchymyn neu unrhyw ddarpariaeth ynddo, am nad yw o fewn pwerau'r Ddeddf uchod, ynteu na chydymffurfio â'i gofynion y Ddeddf neu'r rheoladau a wnaed o dani wrth gadarnhau'r Gorchymyn, bydd hawl i'r unigolyn hwnnw wneud cais i'r Uchel Llys o dan baragraff 2 Atodiad 2 o'r Ddeddf drwy weithreidiad paragraff 5 Atodiad 6, cyn pen 6 wythnos o 5 Mehefin 2014.
Dyddiedig 5 Mehefin 2014
Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaethau Datblygu, Swyddfeydd y Doc, Heol yr Isffordd, Y Barri, CF63 4RT

NOTICE OF CONFIRMATION OF PUBLIC PATH ORDER HIGHWAYS ACT 1980
THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL (PUBLIC FOOTPATH NOS 1 (PART), 2 (PART) & 7 (PART) LLANTWIT MAJOR) PUBLIC PATH EXTINGUISHMENT ORDER 2014
On the 15th day of April 2014 The Vale of Glamorgan Council confirmed the above Order made under section 118 of the Highways Act 1980.
The effect of the Order as confirmed is to extinguish the public footpaths as set out in the Schedule and shown in the Order map.
A copy of the Order as confirmed and the Order map may be seen at the address below free of charge between 9.00am and 4.00pm on weekdays from 5th June 2014 until 17th July 2014. Copies of the Order and map may be bought here at a price of £4.50.
This Order comes into force on the 5th June 2014, but if any person aggrieved by the Order desires to question its validity or that of any provision contained in it, on the ground that it is not within the powers of the above Act, or on the ground that any requirement of that Act or any regulation made under it has not been complied with in relation to the confirmation of the Order, he/she may, under paragraph 2 of Schedule 2 to the Act as applied by paragraph 5 of Schedule 6 to the Act, within 6 weeks from 5th June 2014 make an application to the High Court.
Dated this 5th day of June 2014
Director of Development Services, Docks Offices, Subway Road, Barry, CF63 4RT

Nia's gelding *Midnight Diamond* shines at point-to-point event!

RIGHT: Connor Brace and Jack Tudor kept the flag flying at the Albrighton & Woodland Point-To-Point at Garthorpe on Sunday.

NIA PHILLIPS' 11-year-old bay gelding *Midnight Diamond*, who picked up just £100 when finishing second to prolific winner *Findlay's Find* at the Gelligaer Farmers Hunt Point-To-Point Steeplechases at Lower Machen on May 17, landed the Prince Of Wales Cup when romping home in the £4,549 Light Dragoons Handicap Chase at Fakenham on Sunday.

Now trained by Aberthin's Tim Vaughan, who is the leading trainer at the course, the front running *Midnight Diamond*, who was partnered by Richard Johnson, finished 13 lengths ahead of *Xenophon* and was returned at odds of 4-1.

Jodie Hughes, who has won the season's Welsh lady riders point-to-point championship title, took the Lady Amateur Riders' Handicap Hurdle on the Peter Bowen-trained *Squeeze Me*.

BAJAN BLU

Another horse which had finished second at the Gelligaer Farmers this season, and which won on Sunday, was David Brace's six-year-old bay gelding *Bajan Blu* who, like *Midnight Diamond*, is qualified with the



Llangeinor Hunt.

Ridden by Llanharan's Tom David, *Bajan Blu* won the young horse maiden race at the Meynell & South Staffordshire Point-To-Point at Garthorpe. This was David's 100th winner.

Mr Brace's *Nurse Brace*, also ridden by Tom, took second place behind the favourite *Carlton Ryan* in the restricted.

Meanwhile, a reader has enquired about an interview I had with photographer John Beasley at Bonvilston Point-To-Point Racecourse some time ago; well, if you want to hear about my point-to-point experiences over the last half-century or so, then just Google 'Brian Lee John

Beasley interview'.

CONNOR AND JACK IMPRESS

Two members of the Llangeinor Hunt Pony Club, Connor Brace and Jack Tudor kept the Welsh flag flying when winning their respective pony races at the Albrighton & Woodland Point-To-Point at Garthorpe on Sunday.

Connor, age 12, in white cap, was successful on *Peateah* and Jack, aged 11, won on *Molly VIII*.

You can e-mail your news/views to brianlee4@virginmedia.com or phone him on Cardiff 02920736438.

BRIAN LEE

Cowbridge 1sts land a 'huge win'

"A huge win" was Cowbridge cricket captain Tom Merilaht's reaction after his team had emerged victorious against league leaders Briton Ferry Steel by just nine runs.

The win was a triumph for the pressure put on the chasing visitors after the home side had totalled just 135.

Really it should not have been enough and in fact should have been a lot more.

Tom Merilaht (42) and Mike Lloyd got the town side off to a great start putting on 79 for the first wicket in good time.

Once the two openers had departed, however, it was only Chris Willey (15) and, at the end, Jamie Pursey and Zac Summerhays, who got the total to anything like one to give the bowlers a chance.

Pressure is very much part of the game and with

Phil Harris bowling his 15-over spell for just 28 and picking up three wickets, BFS knew they were in a game.

The game really swung Cowbridge's way with a superb catch by Mike Lloyd and arguably the day's outstanding event, a catch off a high swirling top edge by Gethin Davies.

Hari Collier then took another cracker and settled into his miserly bowling form, taking 4-37. Despite the Cowbridge heroics there were only nine needed when Chris Willey struck with an LBW to secure the win.

The BFS skipper commented: "It felt like you had 14 out there"; how right he was.

The win saw unbeaten Cowbridge go to the top of Division Two with 85 points, three ahead of Llandysul and now 12 ahead of BFS.

JB



LOCAL GIRLS REPRESENT WALES!

GEORGIA Helleman and Maisie Harrhy (both 10 years old from St Helens Junior School), had the honour of representing the Wales under-14 basketball squad at the House of Sport against Scotland and Surrey on Saturday, May 31 and Sunday, June 1.

The girls have been a member of the squad since October after being scouted through their club Barry Huskies by coach Ady Whitlow. They have been training hard with the squad and were elated to have an opportunity to play in front of friends and family and to represent their country.

We welcome your news, reports and other items of interest - email us at: gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk

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Sun comes out at Llandow Kart Club!

AFTER the turn of fortune that left April's event cold and wet, Llandow Kart Club was once again graced by dry and sunny conditions when it reconvened for the blue riband Welsh Kart Championships.

The two-day meeting, complete with timed qualifying in addition to the usual heats and finals, attracted around 70 entries across eight classes as the event doubled as round four of Llandow's summer championship, but with the added incentive of earning the coveted 'C' plate for the next 12 months.

In the absence of the Bambino class – a major contrast to April's meeting, which had seen 28 of the nation's youngest racers converge on south Wales as part of their national tour and whose latest round clashed with the Welsh Championships – it was left to the Cadets to kick off proceedings on Saturday.

With 23 runners spread across Honda (14), Comer (3) and IAME (6) categories, the Cadets again created a spectacle on track, but it was the #51 IAME machine of form driver Shay Keough generally to the fore. Winner of the past two club rounds, Keough held sway until it really mattered, when pre-final runner-up Ethan Rees turned the tables to claim the title by 0.199secs. Callum Bradshaw completed the podium.

Comer honours went to Max Fenlon, who only had Shayne Clarke to beat after Celtic champion Connor Kearney fell by the wayside, while the Honda class was fought out between Joshua Martin, Harry King and Ferguson brothers Oscar and Stuart.

While the Fergusons shared qualifying race wins with Martin, it was the latter who came out on top in the final, edging King by 0.001secs. As the Fergusons faded, Will Uphill came through to complete the podium, ahead of Jack Fordham and Louis Harvey.

The usual quintet of Honda Junior driver renewed their fight for silverware, and Patrick Hill gave regular pacesetter Kristian Prosser a wake-up call by winning the opening heat. Prosser responded by claiming heat two and the pre-final, but Hill proved that his early success had been no fluke by returning to the front in the final, claiming the Welsh title by a little over a tenth of a second.

Eight-tenths further back, Jack Bligh made up for

his April disappointment by completing podium. Alex Wilkins and Sofia Nardone made up the field, with Nardone later being nominated for the prestigious Kath Denscombe memorial award for her 'dedication and enthusiasm'.

A dozen drivers turned out in Junior TKM, with Scott Morris and Alex Rees sharing top spot in the heats and pre-final. Come the main event, however, it appeared that reigning Welsh champion Yousuf Ashraf had saved his best for last, only to fall foul of a post-race exclusion.

With provisional third-placed runner Sam Johns also a victim of the scrutineers, the final podium saw reigning Welsh champion from the Cadet Comer class, Tom Rawlings, add a second national title, ahead of Ryan Edwards and Ross Deal.

The Junior Rotax and Minimax classes shared the track for their qualifying races before being split for separate finals. As has been the case all season, Rob Ellis held sway amongst the juniors, topping every session before claiming the Welsh title by over a second from Ryan Luscombe, with Tom Ford in third place.

Mention should be made of Tom Croydon, who broke his wrist after flipping his kart in heat two, but returned to the track to follow proceedings later in the day.

The results of the Minimax class were only confirmed following the main presentation, but saw Ethan Ling come out on top by 0.5 seconds ahead of fellow heat winner Harry Gooding, with Riley Phillips – who had topped second qualifying on Sunday morning – in third place.

Senior Honda produced a fairytale win for one of the class' stalwarts, as Chris Lipscomb finally claimed the Welsh crown after 13 years of trying. The national series regular won three of the four races, but was denied a clean sweep by Monty Gorringer's success in the pre-final.

In the main event, both Gorringer and Danny Griffiths kept Lipscomb honest, with the latter eventually emerging as runner-up, as Gorringer had to settle for third, despite crossing the line 0.6secs behind the winner. Nick Turley similarly edged reigning club champion Paul Saunders for fourth.

Senior Rotax numbers may not match those seen in recent years, but the 10 runners that did turn out ensured that the meeting ended on a high. As he had in the April club meeting, Josh Gray appeared to be in control after claiming victory in the two heats, but Zach Jones refused to roll over and edged the pre-final to claim pole for the main event.

The pair remained closely matched, but ultimately it was Jones who came out on top, taking the Welsh title by a couple of tenths, as Gray crossed the line ahead of Ashley Lewis and Kasey Watson.

As well as the Kath Denscombe memorial award, other drivers were rewarded for meritorious performances that fell short of the podium. In classes that numbered at least six drivers, circuit commentator – and new 'face of British GT' on MotorsTV – Henry Beaudette decided that these should go to Jack Fordham (Cadet Honda), Jonny Wilkinson (Cadet IAME), Jack Johns (Junior TKM), Jodie Handford (Junior Max), Jack Hixon (Senior Honda) and Tom Stride (Senior Max).

Meanwhile, Jack Bligh (Junior Honda) took 'Best Novice' honours, while Shay Keough received the



'Driver of the Day' nomination.

The most prestigious award of the weekend, however, went to someone not taking part on track. Following in the footsteps of inaugural recipient, the late Richard Dowers, who was recognised for his contribution to the administration and organisation of Welsh karting, the 2014 Harry and Evelyn Maund memorial award was presented to Peter Stephens, who has made an outstanding contribution to the sport in a quite different way.

Noted as 'one to watch' in 1971, his first year of karting, he went on to achieve outstanding success at national and international events. A Welsh champion on at least 17 occasions, Stephens remained a perennial contender well into the 1990s, as well as becoming the first Welshman to win the Wessex and Midland Championships; the first Welshman to make the seven-man British team, and the second to make the four-man national squad.

Since 'retiring' from the track, he has become a familiar sight in the pits, where his knowledge, technical expertise and advice continue to assist and support new generations of young karters.

The Welsh Championships would not have been possible without the support of various sponsors and Llandow Kart Club would like to thank BSC Controls, Kartmania 2014, Lewis Motors, Llandow Kart Shop, ProKart Engineering, Rummy MOT Centre, Silver Fox Karting, South Wales Karting

Centre, Talko, THR Graphics and Zip Karts for their involvement.

Round five of the 2014 Llandow club championship takes place at South Wales Karting Centre on Sunday, June 15.

RESULTS:

CADET HONDA - 1. Joshua Martin (BRK), 2. Harry King (Project One), 3. Will Uphill (Project One). **CADET COMER** - 1. Max Fenlon (RK Birel), 2. Shayne Clarke (Zip), 3. Connor Kearney (Zip). **CADET IAME** - 1. Ethan Rees (Zip), 2. Shay Keough (Zip), 3. Callum Bradshaw (Zip). **JUNIOR HONDA** - 1. Patrick Hill (Wright), 2. Kristian Prosser (7Kart), 3. Jack Bligh (7Kart).

JUNIOR TKM - 1. Tom Rawlings (Tonykart), 2. Ryan Edwards (Tonykart), 3. Ross Deal (Jade). **JUNIOR ROTAX** - 1. Rob Ellis (Kosmic), 2. Ryan Luscombe (Kosmic), 3. Tom Ford (CRG). **MINI MAX** - 1. Ethan Ling (CRG), 2. Harry Gooding (Kosmic), 3. Riley Phillips (Kosmic). **SENIOR HONDA** - 1. Chris Lipscomb (7Kart), 2. Danny Griffiths (MS), 3. Monty Gorringer (7Kart). **SENIOR ROTAX** - 1. Zach Jones (Jade), 2. Josh Gray (Tonykart), 3. Ashley Lewis (CRG).

Best novice: Jack Bligh (Junior Honda), driver of the day: Shay Keough (Cadet IAME), Kath Denscombe memorial award: Sofia Nardone (Junior Honda), Harry & Evelyn Maund memorial: Peter Stephens.

CL

Lady bowlers in CCS action

ON Tuesday Llantwit Major lady bowlers travelled to Bridgend to play another round of the CCS competition.

Julie's team, after a slow start, went into the lead on the eighth end and held on until the end; Julie Molloy, M Lewis, P Pike, M Andrews 17-13.

Unfortunately for Eryl's team, after holding the lead throughout, the opposition took three shots on the last end securing a win for Bridgend; Eryl Nicholls C Willmot M Horgan L Crouch 17-19.

Val's team had a more even match and, although they took 12 of the 18 ends, Bridgend won; Val

Blaez E Gray H Tilley E Hardie 14-17.

On Thursday we revisited Cowbridge to play a league match. The green played well and Llantwit players soon adapted to it, winning on two rinks.

Scores: M Lewis, J Molloy, P Cook, E Hardie 18-17; C Willmot, E Nicholls, M Horgan, L Crouch 18-17; M Morgan, V Baelz, P Pike, K Johns 15-23.

This was our last match this year at Cowbridge, they will be visiting us for return matches shortly - I hope they enjoy playing on our superb grass as we did on their new green.

CW

Dave takes over at AFC

L L A N T W I T MAJOR Football Club are delighted to announce that Dave Penikett has been appointed first team manager for the forthcoming season.

Dave has a wealth of experience within all three tiers of the Welsh league, as a player, coach and manager. Dave will work closely with head coach/assistant manager Phil Clay. The vastly experienced Clay will

provide a extremely high level of coaching for the club and the two have already been working extremely hard to bring in new players to complement an existing strong squad.

All pre-season dates and games have been confirmed, starting with the first session at Llantwit's home ground on June 30 at 6.15pm.

All existing or unattached players are welcome to contact Dave on 07816929727 to discuss details.

DJ

Bowlers win in Munro Cup

LLANTWIT MAJOR gained another win in the Munro Cup, overcoming Barry Plastics 82-59.

Charles Hiscock's rink won 21-14, a close game at the start with Llantwit going behind on the eighth end. Llantwit retaliated on the next end with a score of three; Plastics won the next two ends before Llantwit took complete control, piling on the score to win by seven shots.

Graham Jones' rink won 19-12.

The scores were level on the fourth end; Llantwit then made a score of three to take the lead before losing it on the ninth end, regaining it on the 11th then compiling another five shots over the next three ends to finish with a seven shot win.

Steve Booker's rink won 24-13; going behind on the third end they took control of the game, winning on eight of the remaining ends to win comfortably by 11 shots.

Neville Young's rink lost 18-20, and Llantwit were behind for the

NY

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Good weekend for Vale cricket teams

VALE Firsts continued their winning start to the 2014 season, with a comfortable victory at home to Llantwit Fardre.

Having won the toss and inserted the visitors, a sublime opening spell by the young Vale seamer Oliver Pike removed three of the Llantwit Fardre top order for just seven runs in the first six overs.

Llantwit Fardre rebuilt their innings but were unable to push on quickly due to some tight bowling by off spinner Matthew Williams who returned some tight figures of 10-3-13-1.

Young Pike returned to the attack towards the

end of the visitors' innings to finish with figures of 10-1-22-4, and was supported by two wickets from Billy Yates (2-18) and some excellent fielding which resulted in two run outs, restricting the visitors to 123 all out at the end of their 50 overs.

The Vale set about their run chase in a confident manner, but the early loss of Jon P Davies for seven slowed their pursuit.

This brought to the crease the in-form Billy Yates, however a superb one-handed diving catch removed him for 9, with the score on 26.

Skipper for the day Paul Sheppard then came to the crease with the other opening bat Jon J Davies, to steady the

ship. With time on their side and plenty of overs to spare, the two batsmen guided their team to an emphatic eight-wicket victory, with Jon finishing on an unbeaten 55, and the skipper not out on 28.

The Vale travel to Ponthir this week full of confidence, looking for their fourth consecutive victory of the season and to firmly establish the team in the early season promotion places.

Vale 2nds won a low scoring game against Llantwit Fardre 2nds to make it two wins in a row after their opening weekend loss to Monmouth.

On a damp wicket Vale inserted the home side after winning another important toss.

Opening pair Mike Barnett, making his first appearance of the season, and Harrish Kannan both bowled good six over opening spells with each picking up two wickets.

Carl Brooks assisted with the first wicket, holding a catch at mid wicket off Barnett, with Kannan hitting the timber shortly afterwards, claiming the second wicket. Both then clean bowled victims to leave the home side 34-4 after 12 overs.

Despite going for 15 in his first over, Steve Harper responded well by taking a wicket in his

second over, holding a caught and bowled chance. This was backed up by his captain Mark Francis who struck at the other end and Harper senior added further to his wicket tally by getting an lbw decision.

Son replaced father in the shape of Matt Harper, who followed up his good work in the previous match by again bowling well and importantly getting the dangerous B Croxall caught by Vinod Ramachandran for a well made 48.

This exposed the home side's tail and an

excellent piece of fielding from Kannan led to a run out, and the final wicket fell shortly afterwards to Matt Harper who, like his father, held a caught and bowled chance to leave Llantwit Fardre 93 all out.

The Vale bowling figures were Mike Barnett 6-1-18-2, Harrish Kannan 8-2-14-2, Steve Harper 5-0-32-2, Mark Francis 6-1-21-1 and Matt Harper 3-4-1-4-2.

Although a small total, the slow damp wicket was never going to make it easy and Vale suffered

an early setback as Matt Harper quickly returned to the pavilion. Carl Brooks then gloved one to the keeper and departed for 11 with the score on 19.

Skipper Francis and former Bridgend full back Chris Bradshaw then built a more than useful 35-run partnership before Francis fell LBW for 21.

This was followed by another quick wicket and 14 runs later Bradshaw lofted a catch to long on, falling for 24.

Vale were still 24 runs short of victory and their cause wasn't helped as

confusion led to a self-inflicted run out. However, having started the day well, Kannan also finished the day well as he eased Vale fears by taking the visitors to the verge of victory by scoring 13 not out.

It was left to Steve Harper to administer the final rights as a four through midwicket took Vale to victory.

This was an excellent victory for Vale on a difficult pitch with once again lots of contributions throughout the side taking Vale past the winning post.

MF

Ladies bowlers go two for two!

COWBRIDGE lady bowlers played both their matches this week, and won them both.

Their first match was a friendly at home to Penarth Windsor which they won by 59 shots to 31, with wins on all three rinks.

The rink of Lynda Wilson, Sylvia Hole, Shirley Dunsford and skip Anne Jarvis won 18-7, Diane Purnell, Phyllis Price, Sandra Collin and skip Pat Holdsworth won 22-12.

On the rink with skip May Jones, Margaret Cooper, Mary Thomas and Shirley Wilkinson, they won 19-12.

In their league match at home to Llantwit Major they again won, but only just, losing on two rinks, both by only one shot. They won on the other rink by eight shots, winning the game overall 57-51.

The winning rink with Phyllis Price, Sylvia Hole, May Jones and skip Shirley Wilkinson won 23-15. The other two rinks with Diane Purnell, Kay Edwards, Pat Holdsworth and skip Lynda Wilson, and

Margaret Cooper, Dorothy Pritchard, Joy Woolford and skip Sue Flower, lost 17-18.

The men, playing their Munro Cup match at home to Cadoxton, only just won 60-53, winning on two rinks and losing on two, to gain 10 points.

Bryan Hole, Ron Woolford, Norman Wilkinson and skip Steve Dickens, won 15-11, and Terry Dunsford, Danny Powell, Clive Pritchard and skip Roger Barwick won 19-12.

On the other two rinks, Roger Brewer, John Collin, Peter Lauder and skip Dennis Snelling lost 14-17, and skip John Trott with Mansel Davey, Gerry Lloyd and Byron Richards lost on the last end by one shot, 12-13.

On Saturday, we had another close match, just beating St Mellons at home in a friendly, winning 73-69.

Once again we won on two rinks and lost on two. The rink with Mansel Davey, Len Taylor, John Jones and skip Brian Kent won well, 23-10, and on the other

winning rink with Terry Dunsford, Bryan Hole, Brian Williams and skip Norman Wilkinson, they won 19-16.

The rink of skip John Trott, with Gerwyn Watkins, Tony Lewis and Peter Lauder lost 12-22. Skip Steve Dickens' rink with Clive Pritchard, John Collin and Colin Wilson were losing 1-17 when the players went in for tea after 10 ends.

There must have been something good in the ladies' tea, sandwiches and cakes, because on resuming play they turned the game around and were winning 19-18 going in to the last two ends, but sadly they lost one and two shots to lose 19-21. Well done lads for a great comeback.

This week the league matches start and we are away to St Albans.

Our week finished with the sad news of the death of David Jones, who was a stalwart and founder member of Cowbridge Bowls Club. He will be greatly missed.

NJW

LLANTWIT MAJOR DARTS LEAGUE

'A' league table:

Carpenters Arms 173, Wenvoe Arms 172, Shoes Peterson 159, Kings Head 'A1' 155, Fox & Hounds 138, Golden Cups 129, Lamb & Flag 129, Rugby Club 127, Shoes St Athan 125, Blacksmith Arms 'A2' 124, Four Bells 117, Blacksmith Arms 'A1' 98, Kings Head 'A2' 68.

'C' league table:

Lamb & Flag 'C1' 229, Lamb & Flag 'C2' 184, Shoes St Athan 176, Kings Head 'C1' 170, Carpenters Arms 163, Golf Club 148, Kings Head 'C2' 99, Rugby Club 63.

Winners: ladies singles - Tanya

DMC

Daw; ladies pairs - Chick and Beth; ladies three's - Lamb & Flag 'C2'; mixed pairs - Allan & Becky; Eddie Meredith - Lamb & Flag 'C1'. Gents singles - Steve Davey; gents pairs - Iain and Will; gents fours - Carpenters Arms 'A'; Alec McGaw - Wenvoe Arms; Sir Cennydd - Lamb 'C1'.

The summer league started on Tuesday, May 27 and runs straight through to August 26. Eight teams representing the Blacksmiths (x2), Kings Head (x2), Lamb & Flag (x2), Carpenters Arms and the Shoes St Athan will be playing.

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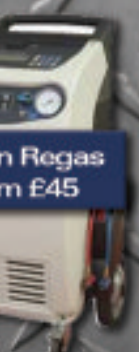
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Stormy season may end with peace in Europe, but not in Wales, as warring sides line up for a showdown at EGM

BATTLE FOR POWER IN WELSH RUGBY'S 'GAME OF THRONES'

BACK PAGE COMMENT by Don John (Picture below by Huw Evans Agency)



The Probables squad that overwhelmed the Possibles in the Welsh trial, from which comes the bulk of the group for South Africa.

AS Warren Gatland and the 32-man squad selected at last weekend's Welsh trial for the two-test tour of South Africa, board their plane today (Thursday), they will be happy to get away from the bitter off-field battles for power and control that have blighted an already dismal playing season – and could yet climax in all-out civil war – in Welsh rugby's version of TV's Game of Thrones.

"Peace in our time!" was the somewhat premature headline in one leading newspaper back in March, after the successful European rugby rebellion led by the English Premiership clubs and their French Top-14 allies, crucially backed by the four professional Welsh regions. (In fact, Premiership chief executive, Mark McCafferty, has readily conceded that the final settlement could not have been made without the latter's support).

It saw the demise of the Heineken Cup and its replacement next season by a new 20-team European Champions Cup, as part of a by now well-chronicled, lucrative funding deal, underwritten by broadcasters BT Sport.

RISE IN REVENUE

While realistically the powerful English and French clubs stand to gain most from the redistribution of tournament funds (their share will go up from 24 per cent to 33 per cent each) and a tough merit-based qualification – the struggling Welsh regions hope to see their revenue rise from just over £4million to just under £7million.

It was seen as a complete triumph for the rebel clubs over the then status quo, which was summed up by Gloucester CEO Stephen Vaughan: "It's a good day for the club game in England and it has worked out in line with how we wanted it to... But now is not the time for gloating" (he added hastily).

For Regional Rugby Wales (RRW) the "fundamental changes within the new European structure will see the clubs ^{sic} take a greater share in significantly growing the professional game, which is crucial in our ability to remain competitive".

However, any hope that this would signal the end of the increasingly vitriolic war of words over the level of WRU funding to the regions and other related matters, was doomed to disappointment, for the sticking point is still the renewal of the participation agreement between the

two sides, which remains unsigned. The RRW statement issued on April 11 vowed: "Our efforts will now be concentrated on working with the WRU to ensure that we can reach a positive and progressive agreement, one that truly works in the interests of both parties, to ensure a sustainable and competitive professional game in Wales at regional and international level".

The Ospreys, Scarlets, Cardiff Blues, and Newport Gwent Dragons have since signed a separate multi-million pound sponsorship deal with BT Sport, which will see the broadcasters' logo featured on all four shirts and Blues' famous ground renamed 'BT Sport Cardiff Arms Park'. Even so, the Welsh regions, who have endured one of the least successful seasons in their 11-year history, with no representation in the knockout stages of the Heineken and Amlin Challenge Cups or the Pro12 play-offs, reportedly argue they should be getting nearer £10 million funding from the WRU than the present £6.7million, in order to compete in Europe.

However, as former Wales captain and respected commentator Gwyn Jones has already pointed out, "even if the WRU gave every last penny to the regions, it still would not be enough for them to compete with the (cash-rich) English and French clubs... or stem the Welsh player drain".

While everyone accepts the harsh financial reality facing them, this alone cannot explain the professional regions' continued lack of sustained success both on the field of play – and their low match attendances.

PROBLEMS GO DEEPER

The problems surely go far deeper, touching on the fundamental issue of how they perceive and present themselves as genuinely inclusive regions, with two even now openly clinging to their former 'club' status.

This was graphically illustrated recently when a new updated image was mooted for the Dragons which – heaven forbid – would have reinforced their position as a Welsh region, rather than the narrow emphasis on 'Newport', which currently dominates their marketing logo.

It caused such a furore that the idea was swiftly dropped within hours of being put to the faithful!

(Presumably the symbolic discarding of 'Cardiff' in the Blues region's brand name would meet a similar fate!)

All these complex issues form the backdrop to the continuing upheaval that is now threatening to engulf clubs big and small across Wales.

On May 23, the four regions confirmed that with regard

to their service agreement with the WRU, they had received a further proposal sent from the chairman of the WRU (David Pickering), which they "will now evaluate carefully as a matter of urgency."

Meanwhile, the dispute has escalated even further, with the added distraction of an extraordinary general meeting of the WRU called for June 15 – just hours after Wales are due to play their opening test in South Africa!

It has been instigated by former CEO of the WRU, David Moffett, who has launched a scathing attack on the present administration, saying it is "not fit for purpose", and claiming that it is operating without a proper business and strategic plan – "grassroots Welsh rugby is dying on its feet" he has asserted.

He hopes to return to the WRU in a new, high-ranking capacity, and while its proposed reorganisation of the districts and the Welsh 'player drain' will be high on the agenda for the meeting, nothing less than 'regime change' seems to be the implicit subtext.

EXPLOSIVE SHOWDOWN

His call for an EGM was supported by 43 clubs – surprisingly including the four professional regions, despite their still being locked in negotiation with the Welsh Rugby Union. The meeting is sure to be a highly explosive affair, with the WRU mounting an equally vehement defence and hotly countering Mr Moffett's allegations with facts and figures of their own.

Before leaving for South Africa, head coach Gatland urged a speedy resolution to the damaging conflict – "so that Welsh rugby can move on". Everyone with Welsh rugby's interests at heart will echo that – though the fear is that the unprecedented animosity stirred up over so many months of bitter internecine conflict, will require more than the outcome of one crisis meeting to heal the deep wounds inevitably inflicted on the game as a whole.

In the short term, we can only hope that commonsense finally prevails at the EGM, so that the healing process can begin before irreparable damage is done – at a time when focus should be turning on ensuring that Gatland and the Wales team receive our total support, not just on tour in South Africa, but for the much sterner tests that lie ahead in the countdown to the Rugby World Cup.

If not, we shouldn't be too surprised if one of the side effects is that the no-nonsense Kiwi head coach finally becomes disenchanted with all the negative infighting and decides to "move on" himself.

What a setback that would be to Welsh hopes of success...